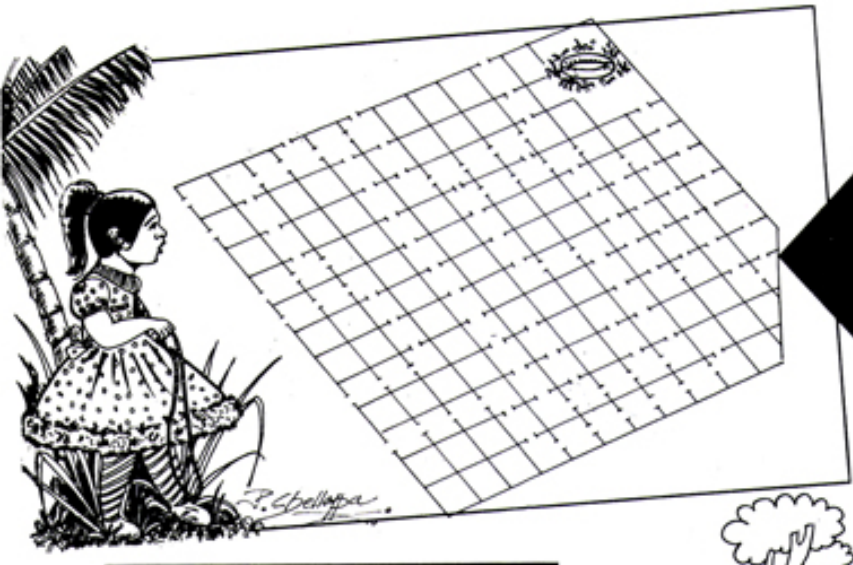
GOKULAM

The monthly magazine for children

vember 2000

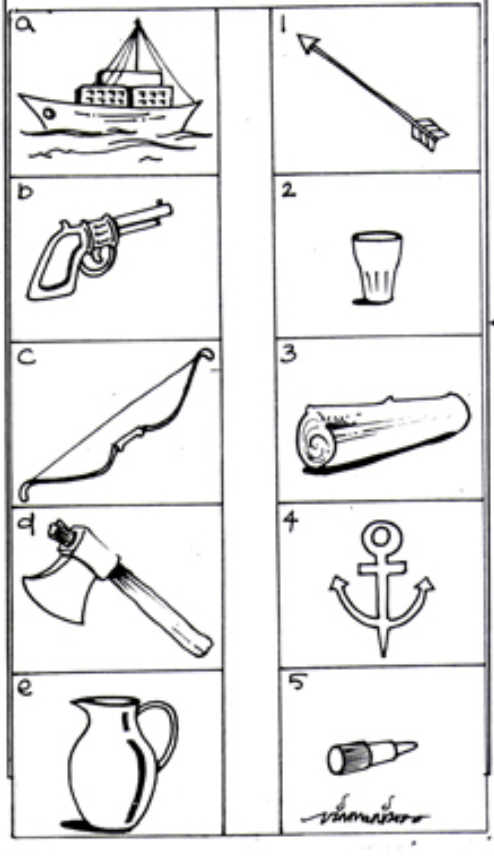
Rs. 6/-

REARING BIRDS



Help the girl reach the ring

Pair the objects



Colour this

Answer: a-4, b-5, c-1, d-3, e-2

Patient: Doctor, I have the problem of forgetting things.

Doctor: How long have you had this problem?

Patient: What problem?

H. Sriram, Std VIII A, SBOA MHSS, Coimbatore.

Vol. XIII
No. 5
November
2000

GOKULAM

Dear children,

If only Sachin had not been run out owing to a terrible misunderstanding...

If only our boys had scored another twenty runs...

If only Ganguly had not blundered to make Dravid run out...

If only....

Well, it could be a never-ending list.

But let us look at the positive aspects. The young team came up to the finals and this has revived interest in the game.

With news of match-fixing and bribery going round and investigation taken up there was terrible disappointment and depression among cricket fans. But now they have started to sit up and watch once again.

Sachin Tendulkar set up a world record as the highest run-getter in O.D.I.s overtaking Azhar.

* Chris Cairns

Above all let us learn to appreciate the Kiwis who struggled hard and got a deserving victory. Chris Cairns was there, well-anchored, careful, yet punishing every loose ball, improving the total steadily but surely. The tail-enders played with responsibility and it was a thrilling finish from the New Zealanders' point of view. What began as a disaster for the "non-flyer" ended as a soaring success.

The most important thing is, for our boys to learn from their mistakes. We also need to review our bowling, and introduce more young blood. There seems to be too much dependence on Sachin and even Yuvaraj Singh.

With the advent of video there is a lot of scope to study the strong points of our opponents and set up a strategy to combat them.

That holds good for our daily life too. We need to understand our weaknesses and study the difficult tasks ahead, so that, there will be proper planning and a determined effort to be victorious.

Love,

K. Rajendran,
Editor

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
—William Canton

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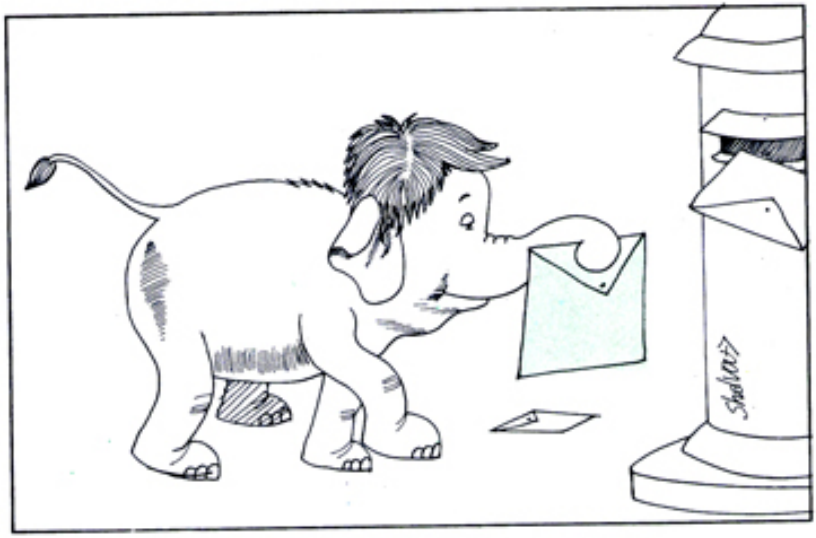
Chellappan



✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. I buy this magazine every month. All in my family, including my grand parents love to read this magazine. My six-year-old brother has begun reading it now.

S. Preethi,
Std IX,
Mahadevi Birla,
Sishu Vihar,
Calcutta.

Every fortnight please!

✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. I like it very much. I think Gokulam should be made a fortnightly for more entertainment and unlimited education.

S.N. Kirthana, Std VIII B,
St. Joseph's HS,
Bhubaneshwar.

✉ Every month I eagerly wait for Gokulam. I like 'experience' and the 'art gallery' section very much. Can you publish Gokulam twice a month?

Ramya Joshi, Std IX B,
DL School, Hyderabad.

✉ I like to read Balu the bully, Appu and Kuku, the editorial and the puzzle pages. Please give more details about crosswords. Please include more puzzles, comics and jokes.

S. Krishnan, Nangur.

✉ Please publish more riddles. I like the games published in the magazine.

Michael, Std IVB,
Lady Andal, Chennai

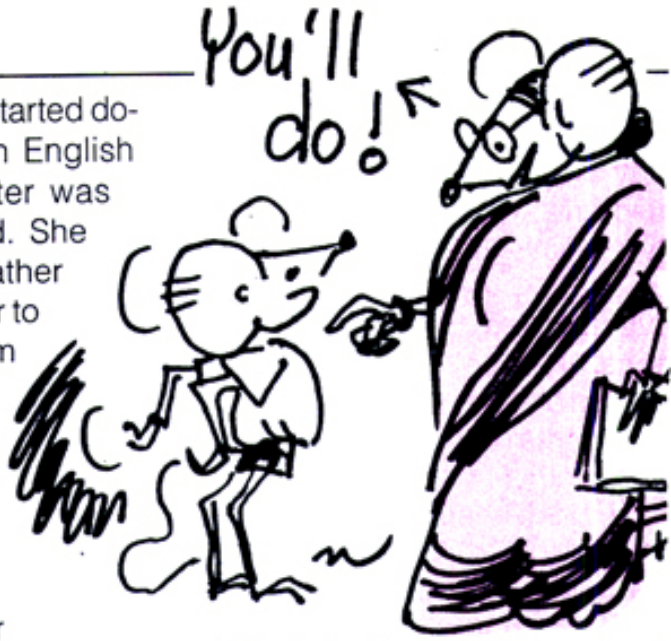
✉ I am not a regular reader. I went through the July issue. It has wonderful stories, comics, puzzles and activities. Hats off, editor.

G. Satish,
Std X,
Good Shepherd HS,
Chittoor.

✉ Gokulam is the best and the most informative magazine for children and I am proud to be its subscriber.

Sheela R. Prabhu,
Std V, SDVEMHSS,
Alappuzha.

BROTHER'S BOOK



Brother Undir had started doing rather well in English class lately. Sister was surprised, but pleased. She had always found it rather difficult to entice Brother to read. Being a bookworm herself, she could never understand why Brother found it hard to finish a book. Normally his reading was almost zero. At best he looked at pictures in Tin Tin or Archie comics. Cartoons on TV and computer games was what gripped him. But after Sister had read to him the adventures of William he was initiated into the fascinating world that existed between the covers of a book!

One day he actually brought home a certificate for standing second in an on - the- spot essay competition. Nobody knew that he was going to take part in the competition, not even Brother. On the day of the competition, Laddu, Brother's classmate who had been selected, was absent. They had to find someone else. Teacher saw Brother near the staff room. "You'll do!" she said, herding him to the school auditorium where the competition was being held.

"But Miss, I can't write essays! I get such low marks!" Brother protested.

"That's just too bad. Our school cannot drop out in the juniors section. Just do your best. Good luck!" Teacher left him to do whatever he could. Poor Brother! He found himself in a tight spot!

The topic was-My Favourite Book. "What favourite book can I possibly have?" wondered Brother Undir. Since he hardly read any books, he could not even invent anything. Finally he frankly wrote that he was not much of a reader. His text books had been his only reading.

Among all his text books, the book on short stories could have been his favourite. But since his teacher kept testing them on it, he did not like it any more. He was afraid that he never was going to have any favourite book! But then his sister had read to him William the Cannibal by Richmal Crompton.

Young William's adventures had so fascinated and delighted him that now he wanted to read other books. That was why it had become his current favourite. He also wrote in the essay that he hoped that his favourite book would soon change as he intended to read more and more! His next plan was to read about the magical world of Harry Potter that everyone was talking about.

The judges were impressed by his clear and honest style and awarded him the second prize. How proud Sister was! Mama and Papa Undir were also pleased. Teacher called him aside and said, "I took a chance, and you were able to do a great job! Keep it up! I will be expecting you to do very well in the coming exams!" As his writing sharpened with practice, Brother started to enjoy his English lessons.

But there was someone who was not pleased at all! Brother's classmate Laddu, who normally got top marks did not like this one bit. It became worse when in the next class test Brother and Laddu both got 8 on 10! Brother jumped with evident glee. It was the first time he had been given such a high score - making Laddu very jealous.

One day, just before their quarterly exams, Teacher asked them to open their text books. Brother searched again and again in his school bag. He could not find the book. "I'm sure I had put it there" Brother said, puzzled. He searched inside his desk and under it. He asked the others in class.

But no. There was no book. Brother was worried. How would he ever study without his text book? And it was only now that he had started doing well. He wanted to keep it up. What would Teacher think if he did badly now?

In fact, Teacher did not believe Brother at all. "Have you gone back to your old, easy going ways? I thought you had finally found your spark of ambition! But no, it seems I was wrong!"

That evening Brother searched all over at home. He even rifled Sister Undir's desk. "What are you doing with my things? Sister demanded angrily. She hated Brother messing around with her things.

"My English text book is lost! I was pulled up in class today!" But Sister was not at all sympathetic.

"Its not a good enough excuse to go through my things!" she retorted, pulling him away.

Brother did not know what to do. How was he to prepare for the quarterly exams? This had to happen just when his Teacher had started liking him! He searched in his cupboard, in the toilet, in Mama and Papa's room, even on the shoe rack and fridge! But he was out of luck. Brother Undir was miserable. With just three days to go for his exams no one was going to lend him their book either.

"Should I ask Mama to buy me another copy?" Brother wondered. Mama was rather displeased, but agreed. There was no choice.

Mama and Brother went to the book store. But it was not Brother's day. The book was out of stock! "Try again next month," they were told.

"Fat use that is going to be!" complained Brother.

"But its your fault!" declared Mama Undir. "You should not be misplacing text books in the first place!"

"Try the school library tomorrow," suggested Sister.

Brother liked that. At least it was a practical idea. The next day at school Brother Undir rushed to the library during break. But the Librarian was not there. There was no one to help him and check out books. "Come back later," suggested the peon. So Brother went back to class, dejected.

He found his bench mate, Kaju, alone in class. Kaju suggested he check everyone's bags before the others were back. It did not quite sound right, but Brother was at his wits end.

"Will you help me?" he asked Kaju, "I don't want others to say I stole something. So if we do it together..."

"Of course! Or I would not have suggested it!" Kaju replied.

Kaju went straight to Laddu's bag and asked Brother to look inside. Brother did. There were two English text books there! One was rather dog-eared and clearly had Brother Undir's name and his scribblings on it! How pleased

Brother was to see it! "I never thought I'd ever feel so glad to see a much scribbled upon book! What a relief!"

"Don't you see what is going on here? Laddu stole your book so you won't do as well as him!" Kaju said. "You should ask him to explain! Don't let him get away with it! Let everyone know what he did! Always gets top marks, does he? I guessed it must have been him when you replaced him in the essay competition and did well!"

While Brother was thinking about all this the bell rang and others came into the class. Kaju nudged Brother, "Ask!" he whispered.

"Laddu, I found my book,"was all Brother said, showing him the book. Laddu looked embarrassed. "Where?" someone asked. Everyone in class knew about Brother's lost text book. They were curious. But Brother did not say any more.

Later Laddu apologised, "I'm sorry. I guess I found it hard to see you doing well and even coming close to beating me! You could have announced my stealing your book to the class. You didn't. Thanks."

"Its not really Okay! But let's forget about it!" replied Brother.

"Hope we can be friends. I'll try not to be so jealous," said Laddu.

"And I'll try not to be so foolish!" replied Brother, laughing.

Anuradha Khati

WILDLIFE SAVED!

• The endangered Asian gaur

The Asian gaur is on the verge of extinction. The hump-backed Asian gaur is found only in the bamboo jungles of India and Burma. At Massachusetts, in the US, scientists have cloned the endangered Asian gaur.

The baby gaur is expected to be delivered in late November.

Honesty pays

Ali Mohammed, an electricity board employee of Muradnagar in UP found a wallet containing Rs.2000. He returned it to its rightful owner. The owner of the wallet is a renowned cardiologist. The cardiologist as a gesture of gratitude, agreed to treat Mr. Mohammed's wife. Mr. Mohammed's wife is suffering from a kidney ailment. He has been spending half his salary on his wife's medical treatment.

The origin of mango

Scientists at the Birbal Sahai Institute of Palaeobotony at Lucknow have traced the origins of mango. A 65- million - year old fossil of a mango leaf was discovered from the hills of Meghalaya. The oldest fossil records of Mango (mangifera) from these hills are 25-30 million years old.

The last vote

The world's first elected woman prime minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Sri Lanka went to polls in October. The former PM, who was 84, cast her vote and died on her way back home. Sri Lanka's president, Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga is the former PM's daughter. Ms. Bandaranaike was three times the PM of Sri Lanka.

• First woman PM

Desire for democracy

Yugoslavia held elections recently. The ruling president Mr. Slobodan Milosevic lost the people's mandate. Mr. Milosevic had ruled the country for 13 years. The opposition called for a huge rally to force Mr. Milosevic to accept defeat and step down.

• Angry crowds in front of the Yugoslav Federal Parliament in Belgrade.

The Elocution Contest

Half way through the maths period, Maithreyi and Mani were summoned to the headmaster's room. The class knew something was up.

Maithreyi's blood ran cold. Mani trembled.

"Sit down," boomed the headmaster, without looking up from the papers he was signing.

This was unexpected. Maithreyi sat on the edge of the chair. Mani hesitated.

"An elocution contest is to be held in the Netaji hall next week. Many schools are participating. Your English master Sadagopan suggested that both of you may be sent for it. It is a prestigious competition and very important people like our D.E.O will be present. You should bring credit to the school."

"Yes sir," said both feebly.

Maithreyi whipped up the courage to ask, "What is the topic, sir?"

"Sadagopan will brief you about the competition. Prepare well. Wish you the best of luck."

Once out of the headmaster's room, they were mobbed by the other students.

"Maithreyi, let me see your palm. Did he cane you for using green ink?" asked Usha.

The boys wanted to know why Mani was punished.

The news that they were chosen for a competition disappointed the students. The English teacher Sadagopan announced that they had to speak on "something funny!" Mani and Maithreyi were at their wits' end.

Mani decided to seek his father's help. His elder brother could download some information from the internet. "The book of knowledge" would have some information.

Maithreyi's father was a station master. He had a fund of funny anecdotes. She did not have even reference books at home. Her thatha's dog-eared encyclopaedia was outdated.

Next day, Maithreyi met Mani in Naidu's stationery shop. He was carrying a sheaf of papers. He said, "All print - outs from the computer. Twenty definitions for the word "funny" alone! Now Maithreyi, tell me your definition?"

She looked at him blankly.

"Do you know the difference be-

tween ludicurous and ridiculous?" She didn't. She collected her wits, and said, "You are using big words. I am sure the prize will go to you! I am yet to start my preparation."

Maithreyi asked her mother to recount some amusing incidents.Her mother fell into a reverie and then spoke. "Nehru referred to the native states in India as the pimples on the face of our country. Once, my father took us to see the Maharaja of one such state. He was an ace musician. We had been told that the Maharaja sported a long grey beard.

At the palace we came across an old man munching groundnuts. We mistook him for the Maharaja. He received our bouqets and asked everyone of us to sing.

"Soon the whole thing turned into a farce as he started dancing. Later on, we learnt that he was the Maharaja's cook gone insane!"

Mani sought the help of 'General Knowledge Rangachari'. Rangachari prepared the introductory part of the speech. He began with "What is not funny?" He used pompous words like perambulate, expectorate and collaborate. Mani found his style jaw - breaking.

Mani pestered his lawyer father for funny anecdotes. His father recalled an incident, believed to have taken place in the first half of the century. Mani put together all information. Rangachari had agreed to polish his final draft and add a few purple passages.

On the day of the contest, Mani wore his "Sunday Best". Maithreyi wore her school uniform. The contestants from the other schools arrived, each carrying a sheaf of paper. Teachers-in-charge were giving last minute tips, some gesticulating to drive home important points.

The first contestant slipped on the platform and had to be lifted up. He spoke a few sentences rather loudly and then fumbled for words. A little girl delivered her speech with the rapidity of one anxious to catch a train. A fat boy catalogued with great ease many funny incidents, but was booed off the stage. There were hissings and catcalls when a tall girl spoke in a low voice.

Mani came on stage and delivered his speech without a single pause. He did well with Rangachari's alliterative sentences. He was followed by two more speakers. The last speaker was Maithreyi.

She began to tremble on climb-

STRANGE

14622047999 divided by '10' leaves a remainder of '9'.The resulting number divided by '9' gives a remainder of '8'.The resulting number divided by '8' gives a remainder of '7'.

G. Zain, K.V. No. 1, Hyderabad.

ing the platform. She forgot the first sentence of her speech, a definition of what is funny! She began to sweat profusely. Sadagopan, the English master, was watching anxiously.

She stood motionless for a minute. Then she began by saying that she had forgotten the painfully prepared speech. She could not recollect the defintions of the word "funny".

At any rate, all the definitions had centred round oddity in speech or behaviour. A man walking on his head was an odd sight. Similarly a mouse chasing an elephant as happened in many Walt Disney cartoons!

She wondered how ideas came pouring in!

In a flash she recollected an old incident narrated by her father. A monkey proved itself a menace to the staff of a small railway station. So it was packed in a small wicker basket and placed in the tamarind consignment addressed to a merchant.

In a mix-up instead of a fruit basket the high ranking British officer of the Railways received the monkey. The station staff expected a severe reprimand from the boss. Down came he from the hills and thanked the staff for their "loving living gift".

The audience laughed uproariously. Encouraged, Maithreyi narrated a few more anecdotes.

While awarding the prize to "the fat boy", the chief guest commended Maithreyi's resourcefulness. He praised her simple, informal style. He had a dig at teachers who encouraged students to learn by rote and deliver with theatrical gestures. "Be simple and natural and your speech is bound to be effective" was his sage counsel.

G.S.B., Chennai

GOKULAM ART GALLERY

M. Apoorva,
VII - D,
Nalanda Vidya Niketan,
Vijayawada.

S. Remya
IX-A,
St. Joseph's School, Kollam

R. Shankari,
VII A, Holy Angels,
Chennai.

M. Jaiganesh,
X, Robert M.H.S.S,
Chennai.
A.C. Merlin, IX - A,
St. Raphael's Girls HSS,
Chennai.

G. Shalini, IX -C,
SIWS, Mumbai.

Dear Shankari,
Please send your house address.

Children sending contributions to Art Gallery must send sketches made in black ink. Pencil sketches will not be accepted. All contributions must carry all details mentioned below:
Name, age or class, name of school and full house address.

Name : **Anup Kumar Lath,**
Age : 14
Address : S/o Motilal Lath, Main Road, Bargarh - 768028 (Orissa)
Hobbies : Stamps & coins collection, reading magazines, playing cricket and table tennis.

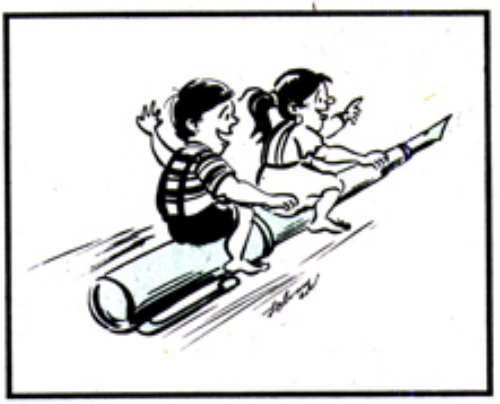
Name : **R. Apurva Sudarsan**
Age : 13
Address : No.5, I cross (II), Ex-servicemen Colony, Dinnur Main, R.T.Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.
Hobbies : Reading, stamp/coin collection, playing veena and keyboard, poetry, cycling and painting.

Name : **Radha Natarajan**
Age : 10
Address : 13/A, Grove lane, Kalighat P.O., Calcutta - 700 026.
Hobbies : Reading, painting, playing, watching T.V.

Name : **P. Praveen kumar**
Age : 14
Address : H.B. 248, Annanagar, Housing unit, Trichy - 26.
Hobbies : Reading, watching T.V. and playing.

Name : **A. Hasmitha**
Age : 17
Address : No.14, Dhanalakshmi Avenue, III Cross Street, Kasturibai Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.
Hobbies : Reading, music, painting, writing poems, stories, chatting, cycling, playing badminton and cricket, and making friends.

Name : **R. Nathanial John**
Age : 16
Address : 17B, Venkatraman Street, Balaiah Garden, Madipakkam, Chennai - 600 091
Hobbies : Chatting, reading, playing cricket and badminton, making friends, collecting stamps and coins, and watching T.V.



Name : **Nima Melwin**
Age : 12
Address : GI-1041, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi - 110 023.
Hobbies : Drawing, story-writing, playing badminton.

Name : **M. Arunesh Mayanka**
Age : 9
Address : S/o S.A. Mahadevan, C.S.T. Sonada, Dist Darjeeling - 734219. W.Bengal.
Hobbies : Reading books, watching mythological, detective serials on T.V., playing football and shuttle cock, typing in English.

Name : **V. Nachiappan**
Age : 12
Address : 113, Bhaskar Colony, 3rd Street, Virugambakkam, Chennai - 92
Hobbies : Cricket, light music, dance, writing poems, sketching and collecting coins and stamps.

Name : **V. Alagappan,**
Age : 11
Address : 113, Bhaskar Colony 3rd Street, Virugambakkam, Chennai -92.
Hobbies : Sketching, cricket, carrom, chess and light music.

Name : **R. Nivedhitha**
Age : 12
Address : 76-A, Nandagopa raja Salai, Guruswamy Nagar, Madanadhapuram, Porur, Chennai - 600 116.
Hobbies : Collecting stamps, reading story

PEN PALS

books, painting and cycling.

Name : **S. Kavya**
Age : 9
Address : 58, 'Kavyashree' I cross Konamkunte New Bank Colony, Bangalore - 62.
Hobbies : Playing carrom and chess, collecting stamps and pictures, reading comics, watching T.V. cartoons, reading general knowledge books.

Name : **S. Priyanka Koushik**
Age : 12
Address : 5/11, Honey dew Apts. 2nd St. K.G. Road, Kilpuak, Chennai
Hobbies : Dancing,singing, skating cycling, playing basketball, chatting, going out with friends (movies), reading books, listening to music, playing computer games.

Name : **J. Aarthi**
Age : 13
Address : 18, Kutcheri Road, GH Quarters, Udumalpet, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.
Hobbies : Handicrafts, painting, light music, gardening, cooking, dancing, diary writing, reading magazines, collecting books, work with clay.

Name : **Nithya Hariharan**
Age : 11
Address : 7, Heena Bldg. New Maneklal Mehta Estate, Ghatkopar (west), Mumbai - 400 086.
Hobbies : Painting, playing cards, cycling, swimming and reading Gokulam.

Name : **Nithya Vijay**
Age : 12
Address : 'Lavanya' 41, Ayodhya Nagar, Chandra Nagar (P.O.), Palakkad - 678007.
Hobbies : Reading story books, playing video games, stamp and coin collection, painting, working on computer, etc.

Name : **Chaitra G.S.**
Age : 13
Address : 93, 1st Main Kadhi layout, B.S.K. III Stage, Vivekananda Nagar, Bangalore - 560 085.
Hobbies : Collecting stamps and old coins, table tennis, swimming.

Name : **S.R.Santhosh**
Age :
Address : 1999/A, 12th B Main 4th B Cross Street, S.F.S. Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 64.
Hobbies : Riding cycle, stamps collection, letter writing, cricket, tennis.

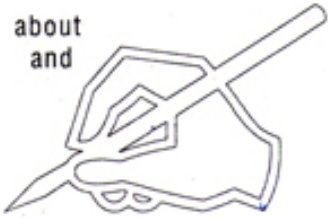
Name : **S. Devi**
Age : 14
Address : H-34, I Manthope Clny, Ashok Nagar, 8th Avenue, Chennai - 600 083.
Hobbies : Music, reading magazines, watching T.V., drawing, cycling, collecting

Visitor: I want to see your master.
Boy: What's it about?
Visitor: There's a bill...
Boy: Ah! He left yesterday for a vacation.
Visitor: Which I have to pay him.
Boy: But he returned this morning as he missed his train. Please go in sir.

Bob Dey, age 14,
Holy Cross School, Silchar

PENPALS (Cont)

information about personalities and about wars.



Name :
K. Shriram
Age : 17
Address :
25/12, 11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600 083
Hobbies : Surfing the Net, reading and music.

Name : **Saumil M . Vithalani**
Age : 12
Address : Vageshwari plot, "Vinesh", Near Patel boarding, Porbandar - 360575
Hobbies : Watching cartoons, chatting, surfing the Net, making penfriends, reading, music, cycling, coins collection.

Name : **Arun .L**
Age : 17
Address : No. 14, New Avadi Road, Villivakkam, Chennai - 600 049
Hobbies : Reading magazines, music, chatting, collecting stamps, video games, chess, learning new things.

Name : **K. Charanya**
Age : 12
Address : No. 22, Karpaga Vinayagar Koil St, Chennai - 600 059
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, comics, singing, coin collection.

Name : **K. Sriram**
Age : 8
Address : No. 22, Karpaga Vinayagar Koil St, Chennai - 600 059
Hobbies : Playing indoor and outdoor games and reading Gokulam.

Name : **Dharini Ganesh**
Age : 14
Address : B-360, Sector -19, Noida, U.P. 201 301
Hobbies : Reading novels, writing stories, music.

Four friends, Christy, Ashima, Neela and Misha lived in a house. It was a mulit-storeyed complex with two flats opening out to the balcony at every landing.

The building had been newly constructed. Even the smell of paint wafted to their nostrils. Two days after they had occupied the flat, the girls were awakened by a noise. Misha and Ashima sat up.

"Did you hear that noise?" Misha asked.

"Yes. Like someone wearing heavy anklets" said Ashima.

"Let's investigate," said Misha.

Christy decided to check the terrace. A room was always kept locked.

The girls moved to the balcony. To their horror, they saw a formless white being waft down the stairs.

Misha and Ashima grabbed each other's hands and ran home, sweating profusely.

It was late next evening when Ashima remembered the previous night's events. That night Christy and Neela decided to keep watch. The two girls must have dozed. They were woken by the sound of anklets.

THE 'HAUNTED' ROOM

The girls waited. There was a knock on their door. And then the girls jumped as the door bell went off. Neither girl had the courage to open the door. The door bell went off again. Christy wished she had

left the verandah light on. They'd at least know who was ringing the bell.

There was another knock on the door and then everything was quiet. Christy and her friend decided to investigate. The door bell had awakened Ashima and Misha too.

The girls switched on the lights, donned their robes and walked to the door. When they opened the door there was nobody! They came up to the balcony. Everyone else was asleep.

Christy decided to check the terrace. A room on the terrace was always kept locked. It was in disuse. Christy peeped into the room through the open window. The rocking chair was swinging to and fro as if someone was sitting on it. Christy jumped when a voice behind her said, "What do you want?"

She turned around. It was the watchman. He was dressed in very expensive clothes. How had he obtained them? She realised then, that of late they had heard of many thefts in the flats in the colony. The clothes the watchman wore were stolen.

So were the rocking chair, the transistor and the telephone on the broken shelf behind the rocking chair. Christy fled before the watchman could stop her.

She told the other girls what she had seen. Ashima raced to the police station down the street. The inspector arrived within a few minutes. The watchman was handcuffed and the loot inside the room was later returned to its rightful owners. The watchman had used the anklets to scare the girls.He had used white smoke to terrify people they learnt.

J. Hascintha,
VB, Hindu SSS, Chennai

A thunderstorm is often accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning and ear - splitting peals of thunder. Lightning is a long, luminous, multi-branched spark. It is a sudden discharge of static electricity. It is a natural, short-lived discharge of electricity in atmosphere.

The cumulonimbus clouds which cause thunderstorms are common producers of lightning. Sometimes lightnings occur during a snowstorm, sandstorm and clouds over erupting volcanoes. Lightnings may erupt even in clear skies.

A lightning may be several kilometers long. Those associated with thunder clouds may occur within a cloud or between two or more clouds. Sometimes lightnings can occur between a cloud and earth or between a cloud and the air that surrounds it.

As many as 2000 thunderstorms may exist at a given time in various parts of the earth. During such storms 100 cloud- to - ground lightning flashes are produced per second. Any particular place in India may experience three to four thunderstorms in a year. Kerala and W.Bengal experience 50 thunder storms in a year.

Living beings are good conductors of electricity. A lightning can strike and may sometimes even kill the being which is directly in its path.

* Benjamin Franklin

* Sometimes people struck by lightning escape with severe burns.

W. Bengal and Assam experience severe thunderstorms during April - May. They occur shortly after the day's maximum temperature has been reached. Thundestorms generally occur in the late afternoon.

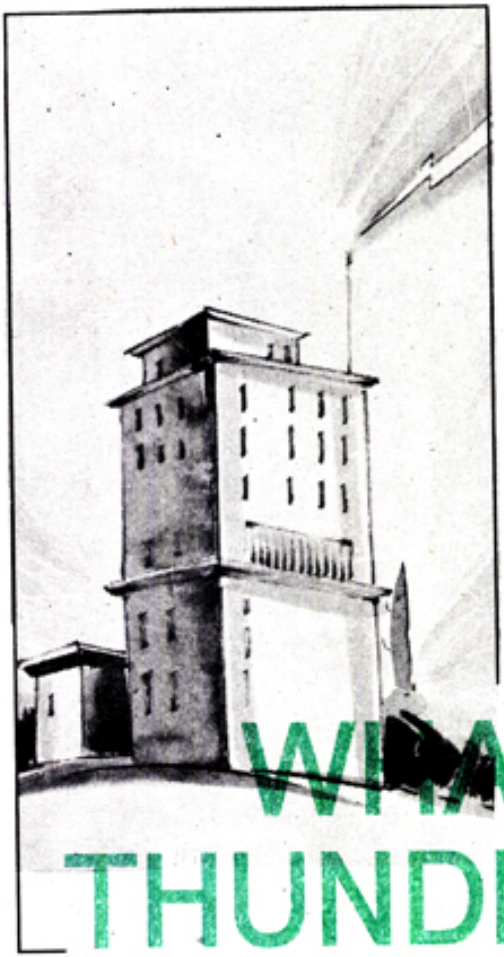
A lightning is born

The upper parts of the thunder clouds are positively charged. The lower levels of the clouds are negatively charged. Thunderclouds spread over several kilometers. They rise to 16-17 km above sea level in India. When cumulonimbus clouds have reached a height of 10 km above sea level, electrical discharges begin to appear.

Within the thundercloud, air moves both in upward and downward direction. The upper part of the cloud is below - 40°C. Here hail stones and large raindrops are formed. Air constantly rises upward from the earth.

This produces currents and the cloud breaks up the larger raindrops. Electricity is generated in the water droplets, but lightning is not produced.

A gusty wind or mass of air that rises upward will separate the positively and negatively charged cloudmass. Thus within, the thunder cloud has several million volts of electrical charge. As the voltage increases, the positively and negatively charged cloudmass clash. This produces lightning and thunder.



When lightning strikes

When the electrical discharge from the cloud travels to the ground, electrical charge moves

WHAT IS A THUNDERBOLT?

from the earth to the invisible discharge from the cloud. Tall buildings, trees and human beings act as electrical carriers.

The discharge from the clouds travels perhaps 50 m. The discharge from the earth reaches up 50m. At 50 m above ground, a luminous stroke of high current passes to the cloud. This is called cloud-to-ground lightning flash. Immediately after the first blinding flash, several flashes occur one after the other. The heat inside the lightning may be 30,000°C. It is five times hotter than the surface of the sun. The heat and the expansion of air along the whole length of the lightning channel produces a shock wave. This is thunder.

When the air is heated due to high temperature, it expands. The air along the entire stretch of lightning is hot. This hot air expands. The shock waves reduce in intensity as they travel. The air and the objects which cross its path modify the sound. The result is a series of claps of thunder.

Ball lightning : Sometimes the electric charge manifests itself as a ball of fire. The ball is one to 100 cm in diameter. It moves horizontally and then dies away or ends with a small explosion. This lasts for less than five seconds.

Lightning conductors : In 1749, Benjamin Franklin suggested placing rods atop buildings and connecting it to earth. The lightning will strike the rod and pass to the ground, without harming the building or the surrounding areas.

Life on earth : Fires ignited by lightning help to recycle earth's nutrients. A single flash of lightning discharges enough electrical energy to combine oxygen and nitrogen gases in the air. Together they form nitric oxide. This dissolves in rainwater and reaches the ground as nitric acid.

Nitric acid reacts with certain elements in the soil and forms nitrate compounds which are absorbed by roots of plants. Some scientists believe that lightning sparks were responsible for birth of life on earth.

L. Balasubramanian
Velayudhan Features

When I fell sick

Cough, cough, cough,
I can't play or laugh,
The fever's got me,
I'm nolonger free!

The doctor tried to
cure me,
That was a waste
of money,
All I needed was some
rest,
That's what I liked the best.

Finally, the rest has
cured me,
I jumped and laughed
with glee,
Alas, I am sick again,
Cough, cough, I am in
pain!

N. Sudarshan,
Std X,
B.V. Reddy SSS,
Chittoor.

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

I was travelling to Bangalore with my parents and a few relatives. Since it was an early morning train we decided to have our breakfast on the train.

A uniformed attendant asked if we wanted to place orders for breakfast. We ordered dosas, cutlets and sandwiches. He took a large sum of money too as payment for the items ordered.

We ordered dosas, cutlets and sandwiches. He took a large sum of money.

As time passed, we wondered what had happened to our breakfast. Another attendant approached us with a request to take orders. We told him of the man with whom we had placed the order.

The second attendant produced his identity card. We realised too late that we had been duped. The imposter had duped not only us but also many others in our compartment.

S. Divya Nair,
Std. X C, KV, Chennai

The newspaper office

As a part of class assignment,

we visited a newspaper office in the city. We learnt to write unbiased reports and went through the process of making a newspaper.

The exercise taught us the use of active and passive voice. The headlines are always in active voice. We saw how messages were received from news agencies from within and outside the country.

The messages are sent to the editorial section where they are made into reports. We saw how the reports are then sent to plate-making section and from there to the printing section.

Back in school, we divided ourselves into four groups and brought out a four-page newspaper.

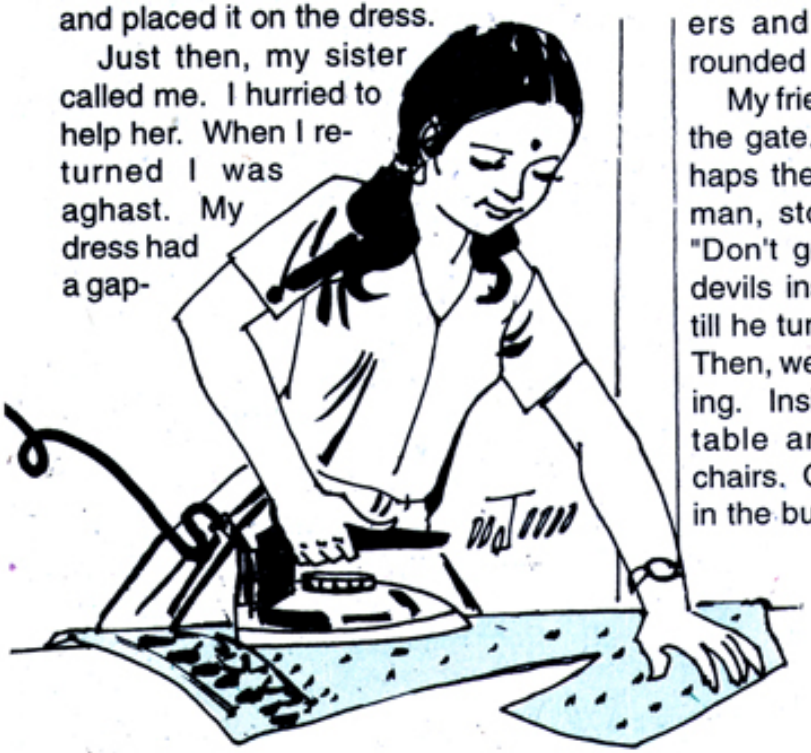
B. Vimal, Std. IX, The School, Chennai

'Lost' dress

My aunt gifted me a gorgeous dress. I tried it on and it looked beautiful. We were planning to visit my granny the next day. Here was my chance to wear my new dress.

I decided to iron it so that the dress would have no creases. I plugged in the wire of the iron box and placed it on the dress.

Just then, my sister called me. I hurried to help her. When I returned I was aghast. My dress had a gaping hole where I had placed the iron box.



I was inconsolable. That night my mother asked why I was crying. I told her what I had done.

Now, my dress has been cut up and hangs as a curtain at home.

K Swati Bhasi, Std. VIII, A.J. De Almeida HS, Ponda

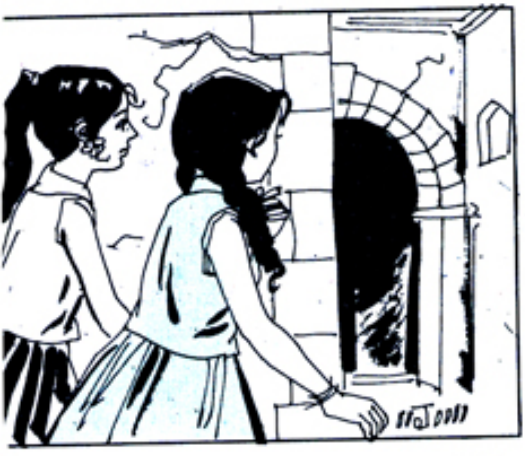
The 'HUDA' scare

Across the railway track about an hour's walk from my house is a huge, neglected building. On the compound wall of the building is scrawled, "beware, this is a gateway to heaven".

It is always referred to as the HUDA building. Often among children it is known as the 'bhooth bunglow'. My friends and I decided to visit the building. Creepers and tall shrubs surrounded the building.

My friends and I reached the gate. A tall man, perhaps the building's watchman, stopped us saying, "Don't go in. There are devils inside". We waited till he turned into a bylane. Then, we entered the building. Inside, was a broken table and a few broken chairs. On one of the walls in the building was the picture of a human skeleton.

Every word we spoke echo-



ed throughout the building. We were convinced that it was indeed a haunted building. We ran out of the building so that we would not come across the watchman. I tripped over a stone but did not stop to find out where I had hurt myself.

That night, I told my father about my adventure at the'HUDA' house. My father laughed and explained that HUDA was the acronym for Hyderabad Urban Development Authority. The grafitti on the wall and the picture of the skeleton were probably the work of some mischief-monger.

Creepers and tall shrubs surrounded the building.

P. Sindhura, Std X D,
Hyderabad Public School,
Hyderabad

The train journey

It is an overnight journey from Bangalore to Palakkad. The train leaves Bangalore at nine in the night. I usually read a book once we settle in the train.

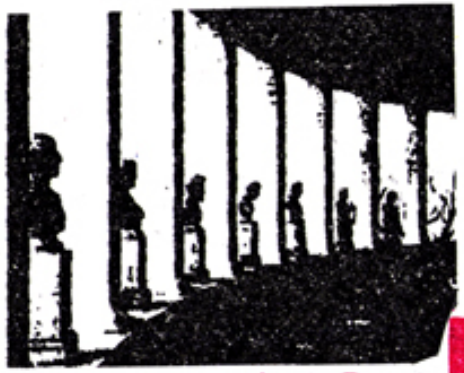
Early next morning, when the train pulls out of Coimbatore, I catch the first glimpse of the western Ghats. As the train moves towards Palakkad, the sun peeps through the mountains every now and then.

The sky is a mixed hue of yellow and pale orange. Mountains keep the climate cool. The mountains slowly give way to lakes, meadows, fields and clusters of coconut trees. Palakkad is a town surrounded by mountains.

As the train halts at Palakkad, I rue that the journey is over. There's a whole fortnight of fun stretching out before me in my uncle's house.

Even as I write this, I long to board a train that will take me to Palakkad.

Deepti Aravind,
Std. IX, KV NAL,
Bangalore



THE HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame for great Americans - men or women, was founded in 1900, in New York city. It honours American citizens who have influenced the country's development and its culture.

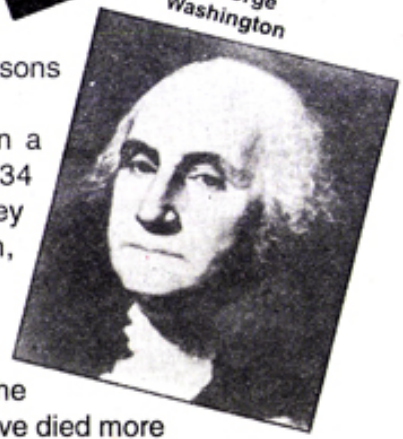
The members of The Hall of Fame are chosen by a board made up of more than a hundred prominent citizens from every state. After the elections, a committee of leading artists appoints sculptors to create the bronze busts of the persons elected. These busts are then displayed in The Hall of Fame colonnade.

The colonnade is a semi-circular open-air corridor. Each bronze bust occupies a niche in the colonnade. Under each bust is a bronze plaque with the name, the dates of birth and death of the person honoured along with one of his famous quotations.

The busts represent the work of more than fifty of the nation's finest sculptors. Mac Cracken, the chancellor of New York University from 1891 to 1910, proposed a memorial to famous Americans. England, France and Germany each have such halls. He wanted the U.S. Hall of Fame to be a national institution that would encourage appreciation of the many persons with varied backgrounds and talents.

• Thomas Jefferson

• John Adams



• George Washington

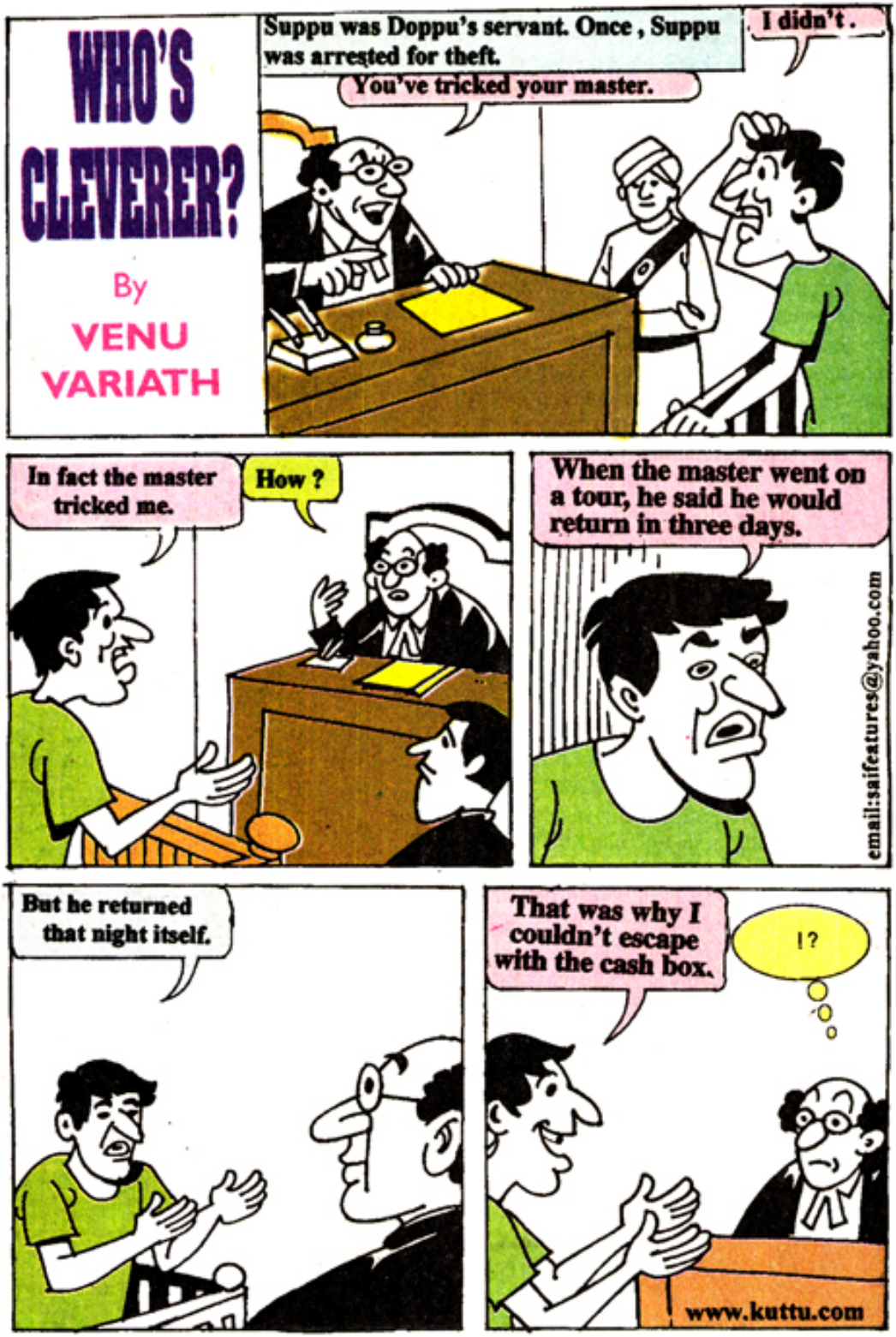
The first election was held in 1900. More than a thousand nominations were received. Finally 234 nominees were chosen. Of these 29 were elected. They included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.

Until 1970, the elections were held once in five years. Now they are held once in three years. The public are invited to nominate the candidates. The candidates must be American citizens. They must have died more than 25 years ago and must have excelled in one of the five categories - Arts, Science, Humanities, Government or Business and Labour. The first three women elected for the honour were Maria Mitchell, Mary Lyon and Emma Willard.

Visalakshi Ramani, Coimbatore.

WHO'S CLEVERER?

By VENU VARIATH



Hello, Doctor!

★ **Jyoti Iyer, Lucknow.**

? A girl in my school breathes heavily and faints when she is in the sun for a long time. What is wrong with her?

! It is due to heat exhaustion. It is caused by depletion of body fluids and electrolytes resulting from over - exposure to the sun. The blood pressure falls suddenly and the blood supply to the brain is reduced. Hence the affected person faints. The skin becomes cool, damp and pale.

Fainting is a temporary loss of consciousness and the blood pressure usually returns to normal when the person is placed in a recumbent position. The person recovers with rest and replacement of water and electrolytes. It is not a disease to worry about.

★ **S. Meena, Trivandrum.**

? What is acupuncture? What for is it used?

! Acupuncture is a traditional Chinese medical treatment based on an invisible system of 14 energy channels known as meridians. According to this medicine it is believed that an imbalance in these natural energies produces illness. To restore balance, a special type of needles are inserted into acupuncture points by experts, which tap into the meridians, reducing or increasing energy levels.

There are atleast 2,000 acupuncture points and the meridians flow through the organs, nerves, brain, skin and respiratory system. Apart from the central and governing meridians, all the channels are bilateral.

Yin meridians run from the toes upwards and yang meridians run from the head to fingertips. Each pair is governed by the five elements : fire, earth, metal, water and wood. The interplay of these forces is believed to create the energy for life.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has compiled a list of medical conditions which respond well to acupuncture. They are asthma, gastritis, colitis, addiction, mental and emotional problems, neurological and musculoskeletal disorders and migraine. It is also an effective anaesthetic for surgery.

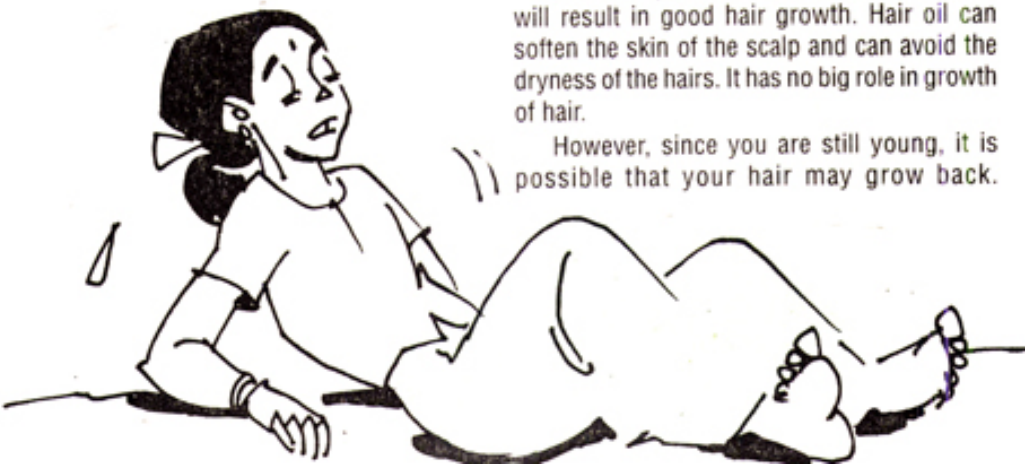
★ **Shruthi R. Babu, Delhi**

? I am 11 years old and am suffering from hair loss. I apply a lot of hair oil but my hair doesn't grow. What should I do for my hair to grow back?

An imbalance in the 14 natural energy channels produces illness.

! It is a myth that applying a lot of hair oil will result in good hair growth. Hair oil can soften the skin of the scalp and can avoid the dryness of the hairs. It has no big role in growth of hair.

However, since you are still young, it is possible that your hair may grow back.



Meanwhile, find the cause of your problem.

Check you diet. An inadequate diet may cause hair loss. Include proteins and iron-rich food.

Hair - fall my be due to a severe illness like typhoid, shock and lack of sleep or general run-down condition. Frequent intake of certain drugs and fungal infection of the scalp can cause hair loss. If any of these happens to be the cause, then eliminate the cause.

A few hair tonics are available in the market. Try one of them under the supervision of a doctor. Remember, the results of using the hair tonics will show only after four months.

★ **Mukul P. Joshi, Mumbai**

? Why and how do humans smell?

! The nose is the organ used for smelling and breathing. If it is not working properly we cannot distinguish between foul smell and fragrance.

The nose comprises two nasal cavities and a wall of cartilage called nasal septum between them. At the end of the nasal cavities lies a thin membrane called the mucous membrane.

Two olfactory nerves that are responsible for smell detection reach this membrane from the brain. The cells present in the olfactory nerves detect the smell. These cells are called receptors and are embedded in the mucous membrane.

Our nose has seven kinds of receptors. Each one detects a different smell. Our nose can detect the scent of flowers, fruits and peppermint, besides musky, burning, alcoholic and pungent odours. When we smell

What is ACUPUNCTURE?

BIRD BEHAVIOUR

The majority of bird species are social. Birds have a variety of ways of sending messages - by voice, by action and by display of plumage or adornment.

These are the devices and symbols by which they talk to each other. Song is only one of the many ways in which birds express their social instincts. Birds use songs to react to their environment and communicate with one another.

The song sparrow can even show aggressiveness. Birds have elaborate rituals of courtship. They depend upon a variety of gestures and behaviours to express themselves. Some of these behaviours may be obvious. Often even the best ornithologists may be baffled!

P.L. Beryl, Std. VII B,
St. Joseph's MS, Nagercoil.

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something, particles coming out of it reach this sensitive area through the nasal cavities. They generate electric impulses in the nerves there. These impulses are carried to the smell centre in the brain by the olfactory nerves. The brain interprets it as a certain kind of smell.

★ S. Prasanna, Chennai

? What causes tooth decay?

! Some proteolytic bacteria present in the mouth produces acid in reaction to sweet food. Then this acid decalcify the enamel of the tooth and destroy them. This process leaves a microscopic entrance through which the bacteria enter the tooth and proceed with their destructive action creating a cavity. It is called 'tooth decay' or 'dental caries'.

Increased consumption of sweets, chocolates and sticky foods creates favourable circumstances for bacteria to initiate the caries process. Deficiency in calcium, phosphorus, fluoride, vitamin-A, C, and D induces the process of dental caries.

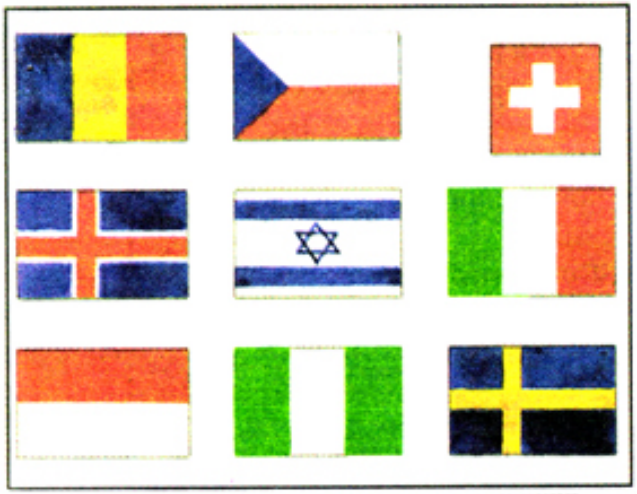
The presence of dental plaque, the shape and position of the individual tooth and heredity also influence caries formation.

Dr. G. Ganesan
Rajapalayam

PUZZLE PAGES

Can you identify the flags and name the countries to which they belong?

Concept : Shilpa Ramji, Std. VI, PSSSS, Chennai. Developed by Vinmani



ANIMAL CALLS

Can you describe the cries of these animals?

Apes, Asses, Bears, Bees, Birds, Bulls, Calves, Cats, Cocks, Cows, Crows, Cuckoos, Dogs, Ducks, Elephants, Foxes, Frogs and Hens.

V. Revathy, Bangalore

Dear Revathy, pl. send your age and the name of your school.

'BIG' PUZZLE

Where are the world's biggest library, biggest palace, biggest park, biggest waterfall and biggest dam?

- G.Zain, Std. IX, K.V.Golconda, No.1, Hyderabad.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. Which animal can live without water throughout its life?
2. How do we better know the clock in the British parliament?
3. Which is the largest gland in the human body?

4. Which is India's first movie?

5. Which sport is Davis Cup associated with?

6. What are animals which eat dead animals called?

7. What is the science of universe called?

8. Which blood group is known as the universal blood donor?

9. Which is the oldest board game?

10. Which festival in India, is celebrated after every 12 years?

S.N. Kirthana, Std. VIII B, St. Joseph's HS, Bhubaneshwar

GOKULAM

SCIENCE QUIZ

1. Where in moon did the Apollo 11 land?

2. Which is the highest mountain on Mars?

3. Who is the author of the book 'Elements', the oldest known Greek Mathematical work to survive?

4. Who was the first Nobel laureate of physics?

5. Who invented logarithms?

ANSWER PG. 38

6. Who is credited with inventing the bifocal lens?

7. Who successfully isolated benzene in the laboratory?

8. Who invented nylon and synthetic rubber?

9. Who synthesised DDT ?

10. Who is the father of modern science?

Krishna Kumar, Std. X, Asia ES, Ahmedabad

MATH QUIZ

1. What is Iceland's day temperature? Here's a clue :

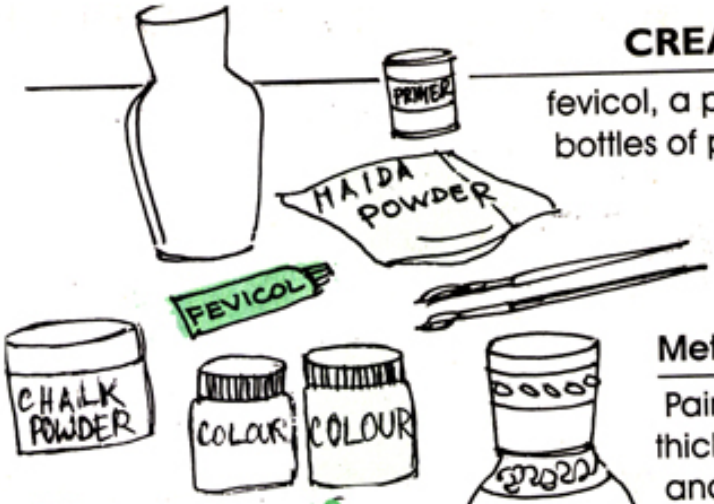
0
B.A.
M.A.
Ph.D.

2. A platoon of soldiers has to cross a river. There is no bridge. The platoon's officer sees two boys playing in a tiny rowboat and he calls them over. The boat can hold only two boys or one soldier. It cannot hold a boy and a soldier. Yet using the boat the platoon crosses over. How?

3. Can you use five nines and get 10 using any of the operations?

4. Can you use eight eights and get 1000 using any operation?

K. Kamini, Std. IX, St. Kevin's AIGHS, Chennai.



Decorative pots

You need:

A medium-sized pot, black primer, chalk powder and maida (one cup each), fevicol, a plastic cover, two bottles of poster colour of your choice, brushes of size 6 and 3.

Method:

Paint the pot using the thicker brush with primer and set aside to dry.

Mix chalk powder and maida with fevicol and prepare a dough. Place the dough in a plastic bag so that it doesn't dry.

Take a small portion of the dough and make out leaves and petals of a flower. For 'life-like' leaves you can mark the veins using a knife. Paste the leaves and flowers on the pot. Paint the leaves and petals and let it dry. Your pot can now be placed on the showcase.

R. Divya, age - 10, St.Joseph Girls H.S. Pune.

Eccentric scientists

"*Folk Tales of Science*" by Dilip M. Salwi, is one for rainy day reading. Every scientist has a queer trait. The book is a collection of interesting anecdotes from the life and times of world's greatest inventors and scientists. Some are downright funny, while others are thought-provoking. Perhaps this is what made these men and women great inventors too.

Priced Rs.50, it has been published by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryagunj, New Delhi - 110 002.

For your bookshelf

Part I

"It's from your uncle Rathin" father raised his head from the letter he was reading. He has invited you to stay with them at Jaldhapara during your summer holidays. He is the range officer of Jaldhapara.

"Jaldhapara?" asked Amit. "I've never heard of a place like that!"

"It's a place with a difference," replied father. "A wildlife sanctuary in North Bengal, famous for its wildlife - numerous birds and varieties of animals."

"What are we to do with birds and animals of a sanctuary?" Laughed Amit and Kiron.

"Nikhil and Sanjay will also be spending a week there, away from the hostel, with their parents."

"Are they?" Kiron brightened. "How wonderful it will be!"

"They will stay at the Hollong tourist lodge, a wood house in the heart of the forest," said father.

"Fancy a wooden lodge deep inside the forest!" The boys were excited. "And the wild animals as our neighbours."

A twelve-hour journey from Calcutta took them to Jaldhapara, at the far end of north Bengal. Close to the bus stop on the national highway was the park entrance. A big picture of a rhino adorned the gate.

A jeep was parked near the entrance. Nikhil and Sanjay were there to receive them.

"Hello! Amit! Hello, Kiron!" They greeted the two boys. Uncle Rathin had not come. "Father is busy with the police officers," said Sanjay. He has learnt that a gang of poachers has entered the park area. They killed an elephant yesterday."

"How sad!" said Kiron.

The security arrangement at the park entrance was strict. The uniformed guards checked their papers and bags and lifted the pole barrier. The vehicle entered the park.

Mystery of the MISSING IVORY

Amit and Kiron fell in love with the park at first sight. The forest looked so lovely. It was a sea of green plants, trees, thick creepers, tall grass, shrubs and bushes. A mountain range silhouetted against the deep blue horizon, added to its charm.

"That's Bhutan hills," said the jeep driver. The jeep made straight for Hellong lodge, four miles from the gate. On either side of the road were rows of trees, bamboo groves, tall grass and bushes. Chirping birds flitted from branch to branch. A jungle mwegi, startled by the sound of the jeep, clucked and glided across the road. Monkeys chattered on the branches.

In some places shrubs and plants stretched right upto the road. It was quite likely that animals were hiding behind them. Amit looked at the thick undergrowths and asked, "May we chance upon a wild animal on our way to the lodge?"

"Wild animals avoid human beings," replied the driver. Kiron looked at the dense forest around them and asked, "do tigers live in this jungle?"

"Yes saab," the driver replied curtly.

The boys' enthusiasm diminished somewhat. Amit could not help asking, "Bears?"

"Yes sir", the forest department driver twirled his moustache. "They are plenty."

The gleam in Amit's eyes faded. "Leopards?" asked he.

"Leopards, wolves and hyenas!"

Amit held his tongue. The driver's enthusiasm in saying "Yes saab" and "Yes sir" left no possibilities of "No saab" escaping his lips!

The driver would not stop! "A herd of elephants has strayed into our forest from Bhutan hills. Saab! They are roaming the forest."

"I see." Amit was careful not to show excitement.

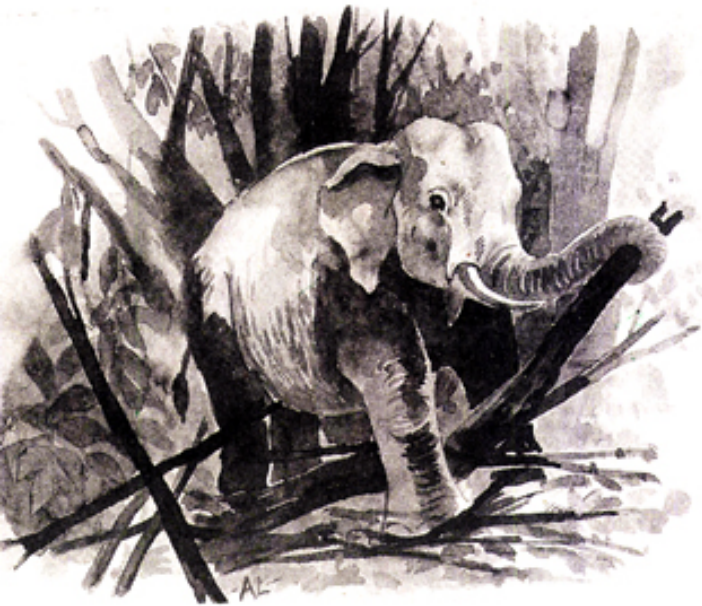
"Rhinos are the main attraction of our forest sir," said the driver. "I'll show you fresh pug marks of tigers and footprints of elephants on our way to the lodge..."

"No, no... we wouldn't like to see..." said Amit.

But, the driver insisted. He stopped the jeep at one place and pointed to a tree trunk. The scratches on the trunk of the mahua tree were made by the nails of an animal, he said.

"The bear climbed the tree to feast on the ripe mahua flowers" he explained.

As they drove deeper into the jungle it became calm and quiet. Only the chirping of the birds broke the silence. Suddenly a raucous cry pierced the monotony of bird calls : 'Kyon-kyon-kyon!'



The jeep screeched to a halt.

"What's the matter?" the boys yelled in fright.

"A tiger?"

"Not a tiger saab," said the driver in a low voice. "A peacock,"

A peacock! The boys looked ahead. There, in a little clearing before them, were a peacock and two pea-hens. The peacock had fanned out his colourful tail and was pirouting gracefully for the entertainment of the peahens. And theirs! Sunrays darted off his colourful feathers. Suddenly, the dances stopped. He turned his head in a graceful arc and then, he flew over the low branch of a tree, displaying his grand wings. The peahens followed him.

The animal was breaking branches of trees and trampling garden plants.

"Peacocks are found in large numbers in our forest," said the driver, his eyes on the bird.

The drive from the sanctuary gate to the Hellong lodge was most rewarding. They reached the lodge, a two-storied timbre structure, resting on concrete stilts.

The boys climbed the wooden steps. "Why doesn't the lodge have rooms downstairs?" asked Amit.

"That's a protection against the wild animals saab," replied a forest guard.

"Wild animals?" Amit and Kiron looked at him.

"Yes sir," replied the man. "Sometimes they want to share the lodge with us. One night I was woken up by a strange noise. I decided to

see what the matter was. A bear was asleep on the stair.

"As soon as I banged an empty can to shoo it away, the bear jumped to its feet, did a somersault and ran! Not once did he look back to see what it was!"

"Ha, Ha!" the boys were amused.

The lodge overlooked an open grassland. The view from the balcony was breathtaking. A wide expanse of high tuft dotted with odal trees met their eyes.

Uncle Rathin came in the evening. He greeted the boys with a wide smile. "It's wonderful to see you after a year. I hope you will enjoy your stay here."

He cautioned the boys. "Don't go out of the lodge after dusk. You may sit in the balcony the whole night and listen to the strange concert of the jungle. You may be even rewarded with the sight of a chital, a sambhar, a bear or a wild boar!"

Amit and Kiron were too tired after the long journey. They did full justice to the chicken curry and rice prepared by the lodge's cook. Then they were off to sleep. Little did they know what was in store for them.

The boys were asleep when loud shouts outside the lodge woke them up.

"What's that?" asked Kiron, frightened.

The next moment, a bearer entered their room. "A tusker has strayed into the lodge garden," he cried with mounting excitement.

Amit and Kiron could hear the awful noise of the elephant. The animal was breaking branches of trees and trampling garden plants. They rushed to the balcony. The elephant was hardly thirty yards from the lodge. They watched in horror the massive frame of the coal - black elephant, with a pair of long tusks.

"A lone bull rejected by the herd," cried the panicked bearer. "They are dangerous."

Loud shouts, banging cans and drum beats shattered the peace of the night. Two forest guards were perched on branches of trees, holding burning torches. They were trying to scare away the tusker.

The tusker advanced trampling the young plants of the garden. The drumbeats and the banging intensified. The elephant raised his trunk angrily and roared thunderously, "Knok... knok...knok..." The loud trumpet shook the entire lodge. Amit and Kiron watched terror - stricken, trembling like leaves on a tree in the wind.

To continue

Sukhendu Dutta

Olympics 'FUN' SUMMER GAMES

The millennium's first Olympics held at Sydney included new sports for women. It was also, the 100th anniversary of the inclusion of women in Olympics. For the first time, North and South Korea marched under the same flag at the inaugural function. Ethiopian and Somalian athletes participated in the Games, braving all the hurdles their countries faced. To them their presence in the Games was itself a reward.

India sent a 24-strong contingent the largest ever sent so far to the Olympics.

* Synchronised diving

Despite all this, it was a poor show by the Indians. India returned home with a bronze while most of our athletes performed even below their national best!

At the Games women competed in a few events dominated till last century by men. They were modern pentathlon, weight-lifting, water polo, pole vault and hammer throw. Besides these four new sports were introduced. The trampoline, the tae kwon do, synchronised diving and triathlon. It was both an interesting and a wonderful experience to watch the new games.

Synchronised diving

Two divers will jump from the (3m and10m) diving platform at the same instant. One will mirror image the other diver's feat (including the somersaults) and hit the water at the same instant. This sport is similar to synchronised

swimming. The sport requires plenty of training and practise. The Russians won the gold in both the men's and the women's category.

* Trampoline, a fun game

Tae kwon do

A sport similar to judo, it is a favourite among Americans in the recent years. The sport originated in Korea where even octagenarians regularly participate in the sport and scare the younger players!

Trampoline

This is nothing like gymnastics or artistic gymnastics. If you love bouncing on furniture then you will love this sport.

The athlete has to jump high, display as many skills as he can mid-air (like a triple somersault) and return to the centre of the mat, without the slightest error. One who leaps the highest, performs most skillfully and lands cat-like is considered the winner. This sport sounds rather easy considering the other events in the Games. Russian, Irina Karavalva, took the gold. She is a three-time world champion, who dominated the sport for more than half a decade. Ukraine and Canada won the silver and the bronze.

Triathlon

This game was included in the Olympics at the insistence of the host, Aussies who have popularised this sport in their country.

The game is played in three steps. The athletes begin the race by swimming 0.9 mts. Then they hop on to bicycles and ride for 24.8mts. In the last stage they run for 6.2 mts. The Aussies believed they could win the game because they are more familiar with it than any other nation.

The upset came when a Swiss mother picked up the gold. The athlete, Brigitte McMahon, won the first gold for her country, when she won the first ever triathlon for women. She is 32 and has a three- year old son.

The world's strongest woman is Ding Meiyuan of China who lifted 165 kg to win gold.

India's Karnam Malleswari in the 69 kg weight-lifting section, won the bronze.

Sri Lanka's Susan Jayasinghe brought home a bronze medal in the 200m final.

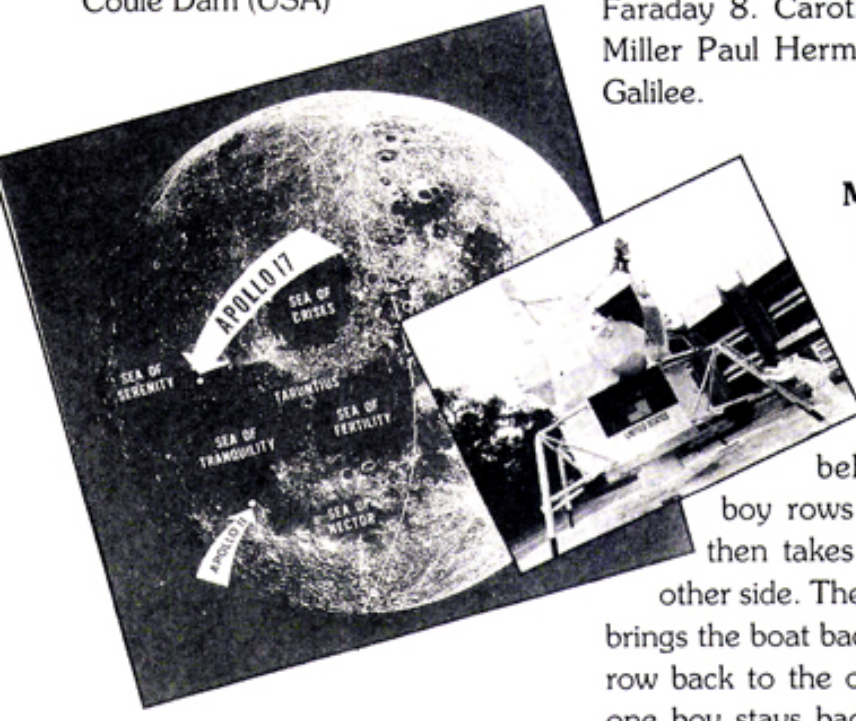
ANSWER PAGE

NAME THE COUNTRIES

1. Chad 2. Czech republic 3. Switzerland 4. Iceland 5. Israel 6. Italy 7. Indonesia 8. Nigeria 9. Sweden

'BIG' PUZZLE

National Kiev Library (Moscow), Vatican City, Yellow Stone National Park (USA), Guaria (Brazil), Grand Coule Dam (USA)



ANIMAL CALLS

Gibber, bray, growl / grunt, hum/ buzz, chirp, bellow, bleat, mew/purr, crow, low, caw, coo, bark/howl/ whine/yelp, quack, trumpet, bark/ yelp, croak, cackle.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. Kangaroo Rat 2. Big Ben 3. Liver 4. Raja Harish Chandra 5. Lawn Tennis 6. Scavengers 7. Cosmology 8. O 9. Monopoly 10. Kumbha mela.

SCIENCE QUIZ

1. In the sea of tranquility 2. Mount Olympus 3. Euclid 4. Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen 5. John Napier 6. Benjamin Franklin 7. Michael Faraday 8. Carothers Wallace 9. Miller Paul Herman. 10. Galileo Galilee.

MATH QUIZ

1) 3° below zero.

2) First the two boys row to the other side. One boy stays behind, the other boy rows back. A soldier then takes the boat to the other side. The boy on that side brings the boat back. The two boys row back to the other side. Again one boy stays back and the other returns with the boat. This goes on till all the soldiers are on the other side.

3. 9 + 99/99 = 10

4. 888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1000

SNIPPETS

STOP, LOOK, PROCEED!

On August 5, 1914, the first electric traffic signals to control different streams of traffic were installed at Euclid Avenue and East 105th street in Cleaveland, Ohio, USA.

LAND, AHOY!

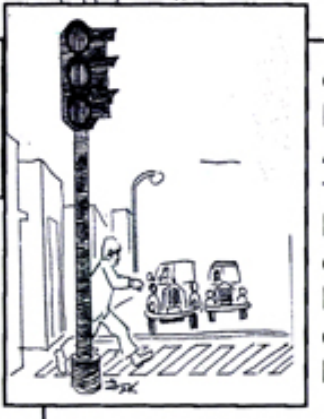
On August 1, 1498, Christopher Columbus landed on mainland America. He thought it was an island and named it 'Isla Santa'.

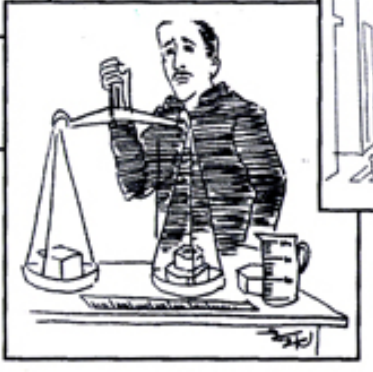
LEARNING TO SAVE

The Germans learnt the need to save money by depositing it in banks. The first savings bank was opened in Hamburg in August 1778.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

France became the first country to use the metric system of weights and measures. The system was officially recognised in 1793. It is considered a by-product of the French revolution.





SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT 11

Aditya Bhatiya was certified a software engineer by Microsoft when he was just 11. Aditya is 10 days younger than the previous record holder- Priyangsu Roy. Aditya is a student of Hansraj Model School, Delhi. He says he began learning computers at three. He was with his parents in Canada then.

Suresh K. Anjum, Calcutta.

A Horror trip
22
25
18
12
9
44
4
1
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3
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6
7
8
10
11
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21
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24
45
43

RULES

Two or four players can play this game. You need counters of different colours and a dice. Follow instructions on the numbers as you proceed. The player who throws six on the dice begins the game. The player to reach 50 first wins the game and the 'Safe Horror Trip medal'.

4 - Frightened by forboding noises. Get one on the dice to proceed.

9 - Trapped by a witch. Miss a turn.

12 - Throw five on the dice to escape lurking dangers.

18 - Did you take a bold step? Move to 23.

22 - A hideous ghost scares you. You have fainted. Miss three turns.

25 - A poltergeist is chasing you. Miss a turn to gather your wits.

32 - Escaped a ghoul's trap. Go to 38.

39 - A ghost in disguise has abducted you. Go to start.

44 - You fall unconscious. Blood oozes from your head. Miss five turns.

50 - Congrats! You win the 'safe horror trip' medal.

Concept :
D. Johnson Parthiban
Std. IX C, KV No.2,
Chennai
Developed by :
Mahesh

PETPALS

FIRNU the Parrot

Rahul Khan was a grocer. In his small village there were only two grocery shops. The other shop was owned by Prafulla. Rahul had a pet parrot. The parrot had been with him since it was a baby. Rahul had named his pet Firnu. Firnu and Rahul were inseparable.

Prafulla's shop was close to Rahul's. Rahul was an honest man. He could not cheat his customers. Prafulla did not think twice about selling poor quality grocery at a high price. Customers flocked to Rahul's shop. Few people bought grocery from Prafulla's shop.

Prafulla wondered how he could make customers give up buying grocery at Rahul's shop. He hit upon an evil plan.

One day, Rahul had to go to the nearby town to buy vegetables. Rahul left Firnu in the shop. Prafulla was waiting for such a chance. He entered Rahul's shop and stole money. He also broke oil bottles, tore bread to pieces and messed up the cakes.

Firnu who watched all this began chirping loudly. Prafulla became angry when the bird wouldn't shut up. He threatened to hit the bird with a stick. Terrified, Firnu

In a Koun Banega Crorepati episode-

Amitabh: Have you come here with your father?
Contestant : Yes sir.
Amitabh: Please tell us his name.
Contestant waits for a long time...
Amitabh: Why aren't you telling us his name?
Contestant : But first give me four options!

Varun Krishnan, Thane.

shut up. Prafulla did some more damage and then left the shop.

When Rahul returned to his shop, he almost fainted. He asked Prafulla if he knew anything about the incident as his shop was close by. Prafulla said, "I saw Firnu flying about in the shop breaking bottles." Rahul was furious. He refused to feed Firnu.

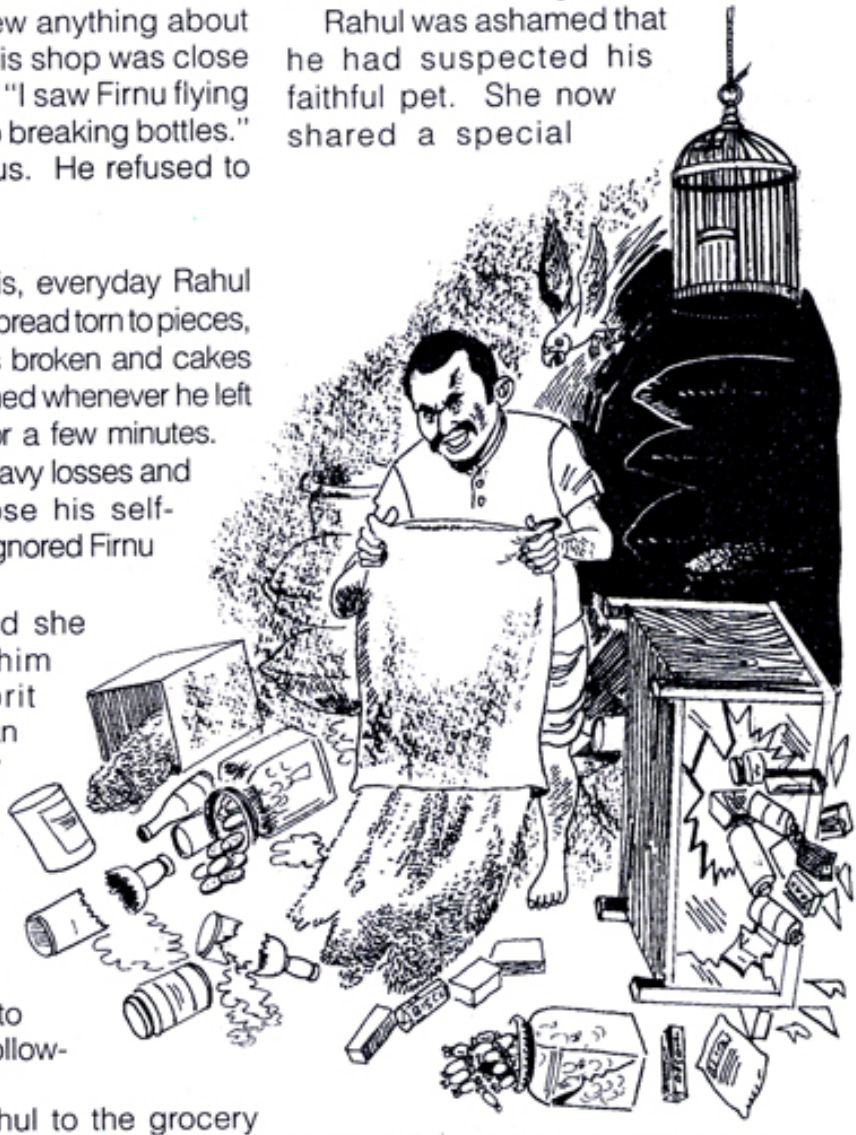
After this, everyday Rahul found bread torn to pieces, bottles broken and cakes smashed whenever he left his shop, even for a few minutes. Rahul suffered heavy losses and he began to lose his self-confidence. He ignored Firnu totally.

Firnu decided she would show him who the culprit was. She began chirping loudly and flew in and out of Rahul's house. Rahul ignored her. When he could no longer ignore her, he decided to humour her by following her.

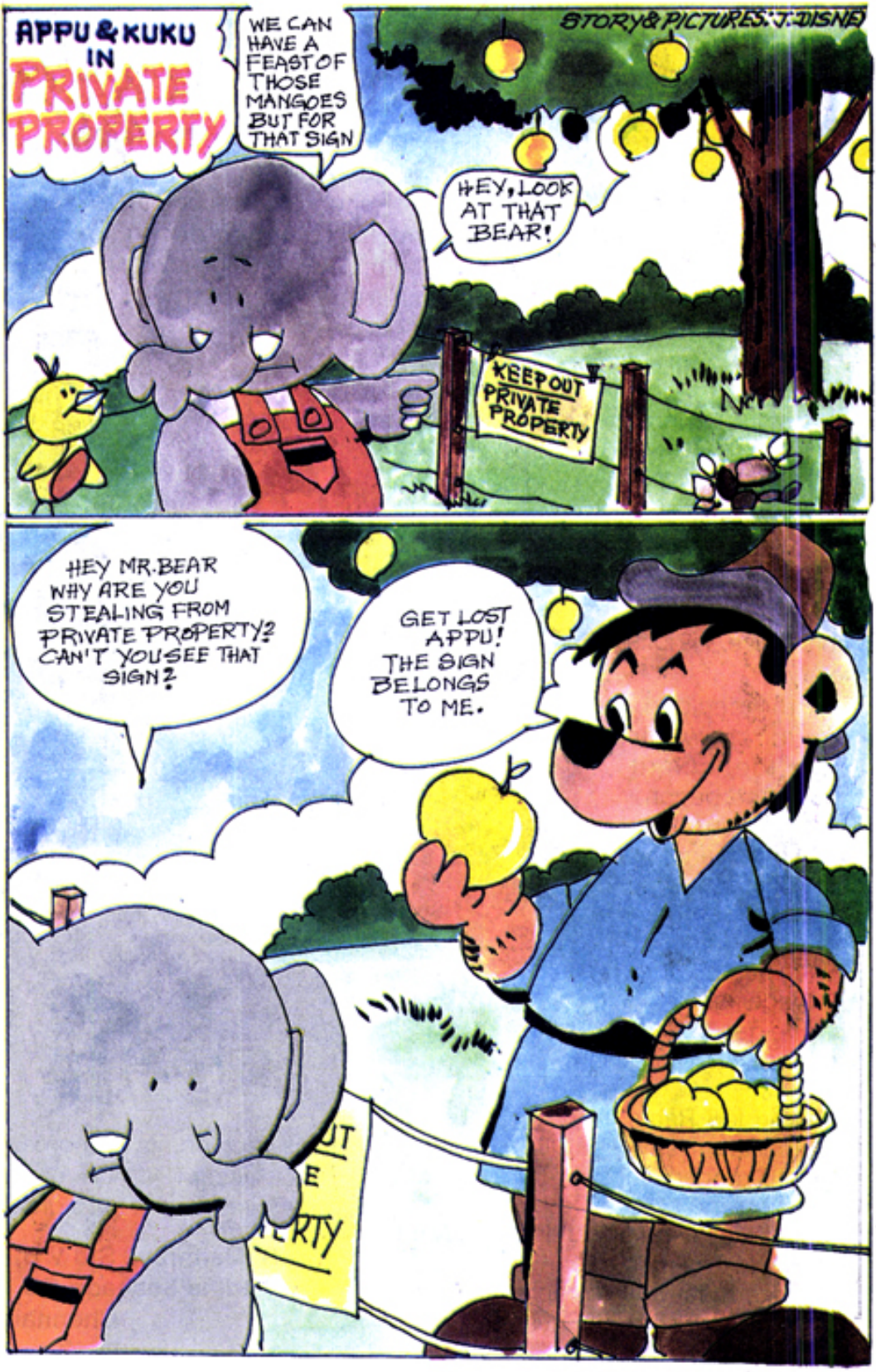
Firnu led Rahul to the grocery shop. Rahul saw Prafulla enter Rahul's grocery shop. Prafulla began breaking bottles. Rahul crept up to Prafulla and punched him on the back. The men began to fight.

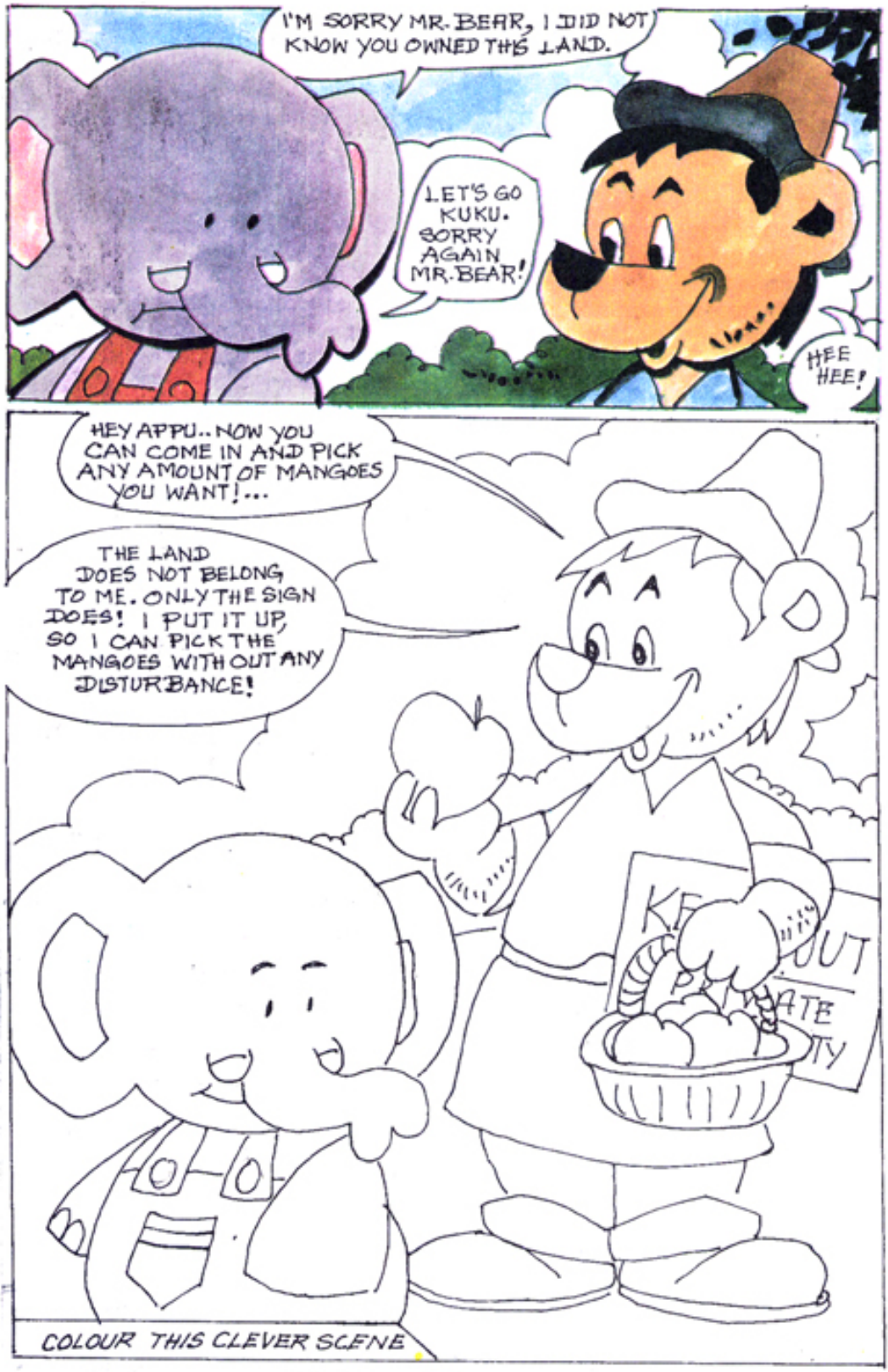
Firnu, meanwhile, reached the panchayat. The panchayat chief who recognised Firnu followed Firnu to Rahul's grocery shop. Prafulla was arrested and later banished from the village.

Rahul was ashamed that he had suspected his faithful pet. She now shared a special place in his shop and at his home. Soon, Rahul became a rich man. He never let Firnu out of his sight.



S. Maithreyi, Std V B,
Padma Seshadri BB,
Chennai


APPU & KUKU IN PRIVATE PROPERTY
STORY & PICTURES: J. DISNEY
WE CAN HAVE A FEAST OF THOSE MANGOES BUT FOR THAT SIGN
HEY, LOOK AT THAT BEAR!
KEEP OUT PRIVATE PROPERTY
HEY MR. BEAR WHY ARE YOU STEALING FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY? CAN'T YOU SEE THAT SIGN?
GET LOST APPU! THE SIGN BELONGS TO ME.


I'M SORRY MR. BEAR, I DID NOT KNOW YOU OWNED THIS LAND.
LET'S GO KUKU. SORRY AGAIN MR. BEAR!
HEE HEE!
HEY APPU.. NOW YOU CAN COME IN AND PICK ANY AMOUNT OF MANGOES YOU WANT!...
THE LAND DOES NOT BELONG TO ME. ONLY THE SIGN DOES! I PUT IT UP, SO I CAN PICK THE MANGOES WITHOUT ANY DISTURBANCE!
COLOUR THIS CLEVER SCENE

CONTEST RESULTS

Here are the prize - winning entries in the poetry contest announced in August 2000 issue. We have chosen entries for the first, second and the third prizes. Two entries won consolation prizes.

The winners are

I Prize

Ashwathi Iyer, Std. IV, Aga Khan Junior Academy, Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Ashwathi, please send your Indian contact address.

II Prize

V. Nithya, age 11, C.S.I. Bains, Chennai

III Prize

N.M. Asha, Std. VII, National Public School, Bangalore

Consolation prizes

1. Dhruv Patel, age 9, Shikshayatan, Tiruvarur.
2. R. Gokul, Std. IV F, PSBBSSS, Chennai

Three winners were chosen in the one - act play category. They are -

I Prize

Help the enemy

S. Maheswari, Std. X - A, Govt. HSS, Pondicherry

II Prize

Veersen's lament

P.R. Arun, Std. XI, Christ Nagar School, Trivandrum

III Prize

Victory of truth

D. Johnson Parthiban, Std. IX C, KV No.2, Chennai.

In this issue we will be publishing the prize - winning poems. The other prize - winning entries will be published in the subsequent issues.

Poetry section

I Prize : Rs.100; II Prize Rs.75; III Prize : Rs.60. Consolation prizes : Rs.40 each

One-act-play

I Prize : Rs.200; II Prize : Rs.150; III Prize : Rs.100.

Unity - *I Prize*

Let's have unity
To fight, isn't it a pity?
Let's have peace,
And be happy saying, "Cheese!"
Wouldn't this be a wiser thing today?
People sacrifice their lives for their country,
Leaving their families, weeping away!
So, let's stand united today,
"One for all, all for one",
Remaining friendly, should be our aim everyday.

Ashwathi Iyer, Std. IV, Aga Khan Junior Academy, Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Ashwathi, please send your Indian contact address.

An official slogan - *II Prize*

We do have one official language,
We don't have any official religion,
We have one official slogan -
All for one, one for all.
The Hindus go to temples,
The Muslims go to mosques,
The Christians go to churches,

ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE

Yet we are all, all for one,
This is the slogan of my country.

V. Nithya, Age 11
C.S.I. Bains, Chennai

Be spirited - *III Prize*

Independence is not enough,
Life for us is still tough,
We all stay sadly divided,
Full of hatred, dislike and cruelty.
Religion, caste, creed and sects,
Places, languages and dialects,
Actually do not mean much,
But has us in its clutch.
It is important to stay united,
Let each of us for our country, be spirited.

N.M. Asha, Std. VII,
National Public School, Bangalore

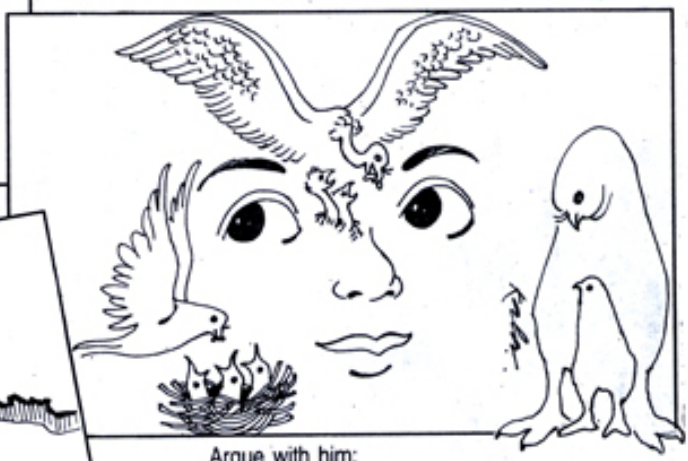
My motto - *Consolation prize*

When mother robin brings food,
The babies wait their turn,
Because they know that life is
One for all and all for one.
Vultures too share their food,
Dolphin hunt food in shoals,
Penguins huddle to keep out the cold,
For they know, one for all, all for one.
From them I have learned,
My life I'll live by the motto :
One for all, all for one,

Dhruv Patel, age - 9,
Shikshayatan, Tiruvarur

A prayer - *Consolation prize*

One, one one for all,
He is the greatest of them all.
He is the one, the only one,
A friend, a guide,
The one who shows us the way.
We can fight with him,



Argue with him;
Finally, we can make up with him.
He bears them all
Without a murmur, without a protest,
Truly god! You are the greatest of them all.

R. Gokul Std. IV F, P.S.B.B.S.S.S.,
Chennai.

DRESSING UP PEOPLE

In the world of fashion only change is constant. Designers must be creative, able to work erratic hours.

Designing does not mean merely creating beautiful clothes. An excellent designer may have to wait long to be recognised. He must keep abreast of fashion trends within and outside the country. Aspiring designers can learn much by working under established designers.

It is not enough to have a flair for clothes, the cut, the fall and the style of the dress. A thorough knowledge of what accessories will go with the dress, the ability to abide by deadlines, to give the client what he requires are all necessary to make an excellent designer. An unprofessional designer may lose a customer even though his clothes may be world-class.

The fashion industry is competitive and provides equal opportunities to both men and women, the young and the talented. Fashion Institutes like NIFT and NID (Ahmedabad) offer a variety of courses.

* Fashion shows throw light on the various fabrics and styles that can be experimented with.

Ready-made segment

It is the age of the readymades. Designers who can cater to a large customer base and are able to meet customers' varied demands, can make a neat packet by way of salary.

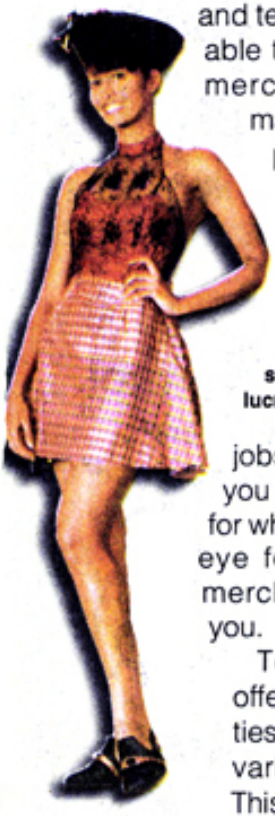
Talented designers who have the money often look to the international market. Quite a few Indian designers have been able to dress up well-known people from varied walks of life outside the country. They are well-known names in the international market.

The international market has shown keen interest in the Indian handloom sector. Some designers have also used khadi to make a name in the international market.

Designers don't merely study to make dresses. They learn how to coordinate with customers, to ensure the correct shade, fabric, trimmings, quality and design of clothes. The creativity and

ability to deliver goods in time helps to bring customers.

Export houses often prefer graduates in fashion designing and technology. Those able to help reach the merchandise to the market on time and provide feedback to the designer on market trends, also find lucrative jobs in this field. If you have an instinct for what will sell and an eye for design, then merchandising is for you.



*** Ready to wear segment is the most lucrative business today**

Textile designing offers job opportunities for students from various disciplines. This field requires designers, stylists, technologists and qualified sales and marketing professionals. The field includes processing and weaving of all fabrics-cotton, silk, wool and synthetic.

The fashion industry also requires choreographers, photographers and of course, models.

Choreographers train models to present the clothes in an appealing and professional manner. They teach models to use their appearances to suit the music, the audience and the ramp. Excellent choreography can sometimes sell even a poorly designed dress.

Photography

Fashion photographers need to be experts themselves. They use either their studio or the fashion house's studio. These people must have a keen sense of colour, form and style. They have to be objective and sensitive to their subjects. The photograph must be able to reveal the style and the fabric and prove to be a signature of the designer.

Modelling

Those who conform to international standards in terms of appearance, with poise, grace and self-confidence can make it to modelling. Catwalkers must have a photogenic face with a perfect skin.

Recognition for a model comes slow. The model is exhibiting a designer's clothes and not herself!

AMAZING FACTS

REVIVING MAMMOTHS

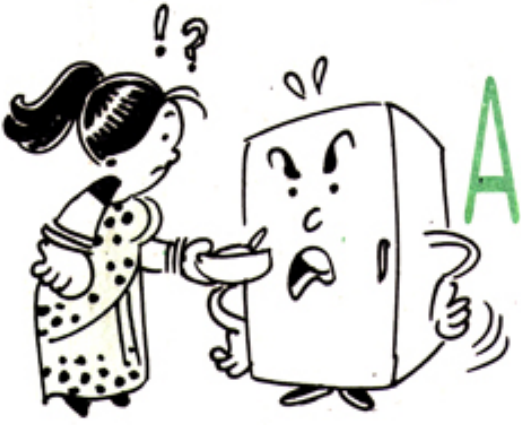
Mammoths roamed the earth long before man. About 10,000 years ago they became extinct. Man hunted them for food. Mammoths were huge, hairy elephants with long tusks.

Over the centuries scientists and explorers have discovered thousands of well-preserved carcasses of mammoths buried under Siberian ice. Scientists believe that if an intact carcass of a male mammoth can be found, then they can conduct experiments.

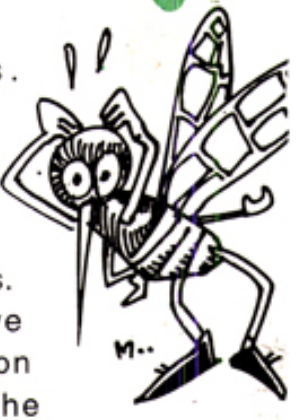
If experiments prove successful, then we may be able to know more about mammoths and their way of life.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

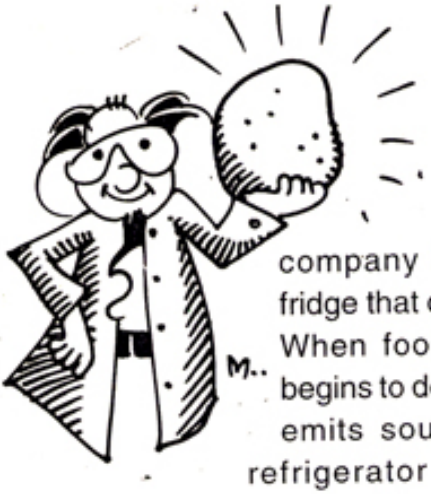
An American scientist has developed a new method to control mosquitoes. Chlorella is an algae which grows in stagnant waters. Mosquito larve feed on chlorella. The scientist altered the genetic make-up of this algae. As a result the algae produces a type of hormone which interferes with the digestive system of the mosquito larve, thus killing it.



A Talking Fridge



If this genetically altered chlorella can be introduced into stagnant waters it will kill mosquito larve, believes the scientist.



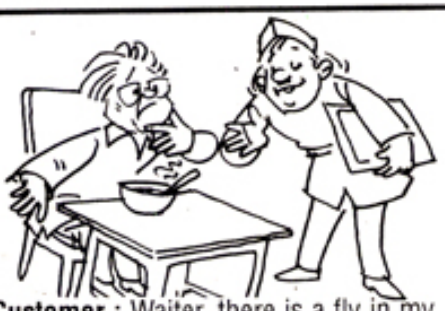
KING-SIZED POTATOES

A group of scientists in Germany have developed potatoes the size of water-melon. Each potato weighs two kg. One potato contains enough starch to feed a family of six!

A TALKING FRIDGE

A Japanese company has developed a fridge that can talk to its users. When food placed inside it begins to deteriorate, the fridge emits sound signals. The refrigerator has a built-in computer. It regulates the internal temperature and the cooling system. Drastic changes in these are indicated by the beeping of the computer. If the door is left ajar, the computer emits signals.

Velayudhan Features



Customer : Waiter, there is a fly in my soup.

Waiter : (in surprise) How can it be? I had already removed three flies from it.

Teacher : There are two days left for your final exams to begin. The question papers have already gone to press. Do you have any questions to ask?

Mohini : Yes sir, what is the name of the printing press?

- G. Indresh,Std. VII A, St. Mary Magdalene M.S., Hosur.

Teacher : Rohini can you tell me who was Raja Ram Mohan Roy?

Rohini : He was the son of his father.

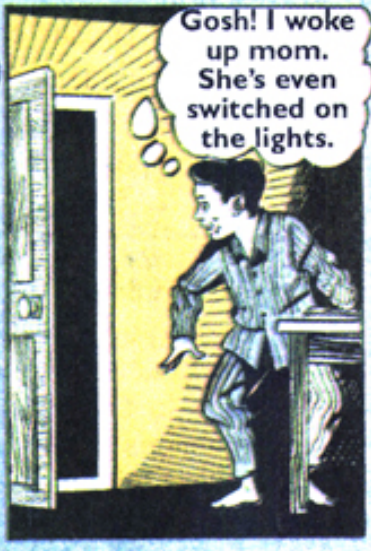
- R. Manikandan, Std. XI, Kittappa HSS, Mayiladuthurai

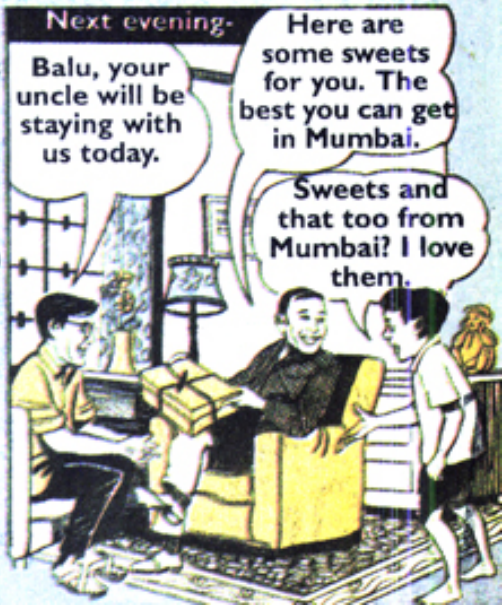
THE SLEEP - WALKER

BALU THE BULLY

STORY: KAUSIKAN

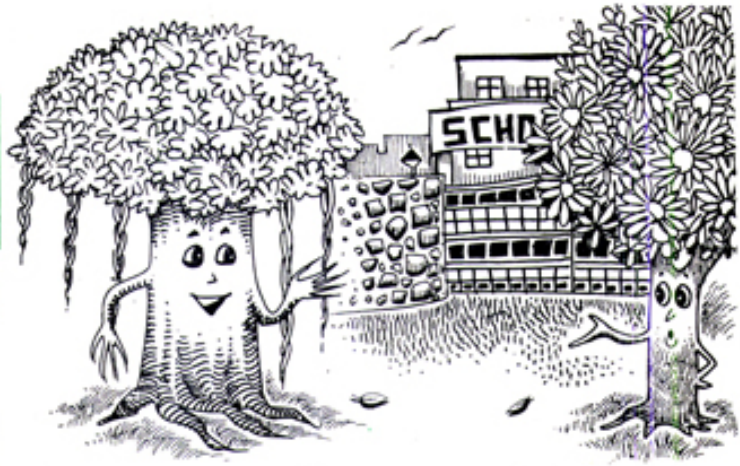
ILLUSTRATION: CHELLAM





Should you finish them all in one day? Go to bed. It's late.
I'm sure Balu will sleep-walk to-night. The sweets will bring him to the kitchen. I'll hide there.
Oh! I have over-slept. I must finish those sweets.
There's a thief in the kitchen. I'll get uncle. He's a police-man.
Balu, wait here. I'll tackle that thief.
Oh, my God! It's father. And they are fighting in the dark! I'll go back to bed. Else, I'll be in trouble.
THUD...
CRASH...
GOD...
HEY!
HELP...
BALU...

GREEN EARTH CONTEST



This story won the first consolation prize.

THE HAND THAT SAVES

In the open school ground stood a huge tree. A sturdy young tree stood next to the banyan. The huge tree was a banyan. The young tree was the mango. "This place is empty except for you and me," said the mango tree.

"Long ago there were plenty of trees. I had many many friends," replied the banyan.

"So what happened to them?" the mango tree asked.

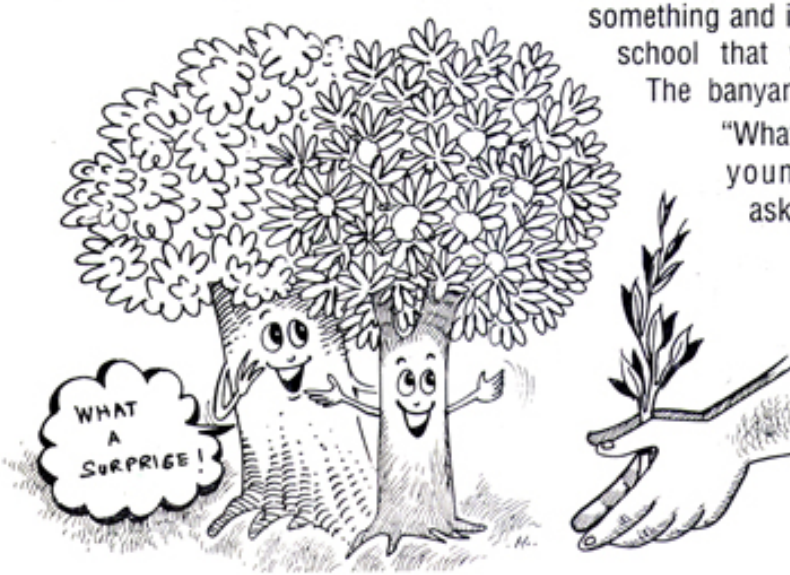
"It happened when I was merely a sapling like you. One morning, we were all chatting when big men with axes marched towards us. One by one they cut down my friends. I was spared because the men had no use for me."

The banyan seemed lost in thought. Then it continued. "The next day some more men came. I thought they were planning to cut me too. Instead, they brought in lorries more men and women. Soon they started to do something and it ended in this big school that you see across."

The banyan sighed.

"What is a school?" the young mango tree asked.

"School is a place where human saplings come to learn



more about the outside world. They even read about us," replied the banyan tree.

"Oh, But how did I come here?" asked the mango tree.

"Children who study in the school eat under my shade. Once a child ate a mango and threw the seed here. After a few showers you sprouted," said the banyan.

"If only our family were also present here. We give the humans fruits, shade and even oxygen to breathe. They don't even bother to water us. My feet are tired of searching for water and you say they even study about us and our uses! Yet they behave like this!"

The next day the banyan and the mango found men advancing towards them. "Oh no! Men again," cried the mango.

It was sure that they were going to cut them down. Where were the axes? The mango watched as the men brought saplings and planted them in the ground in a neat row. These men were different!

The next day onwards, the mango and the banyan were showered with love by the school children. They poured water and nourished them along with the other saplings. The banyan and the mango were happy because there were hands that could save them too!

B. Annette Nithya, Std. VIII A
DAV BHEL School, Ranipet

Annette Nithya wins Rs.100/-

PRETZELS

You need : 1) 1 tbsp dry yeast 2) ½ cup warm water 3) 1 tbsp honey 4) 1 tbsp salt and coarse sugar 5) 1½ cups flour and some more to sprinkle on the cutting board.

Method : In a bowl pour warm water and dissolve the yeast for about five minutes. Mix in honey and salt. Add the flour and stir until thick.

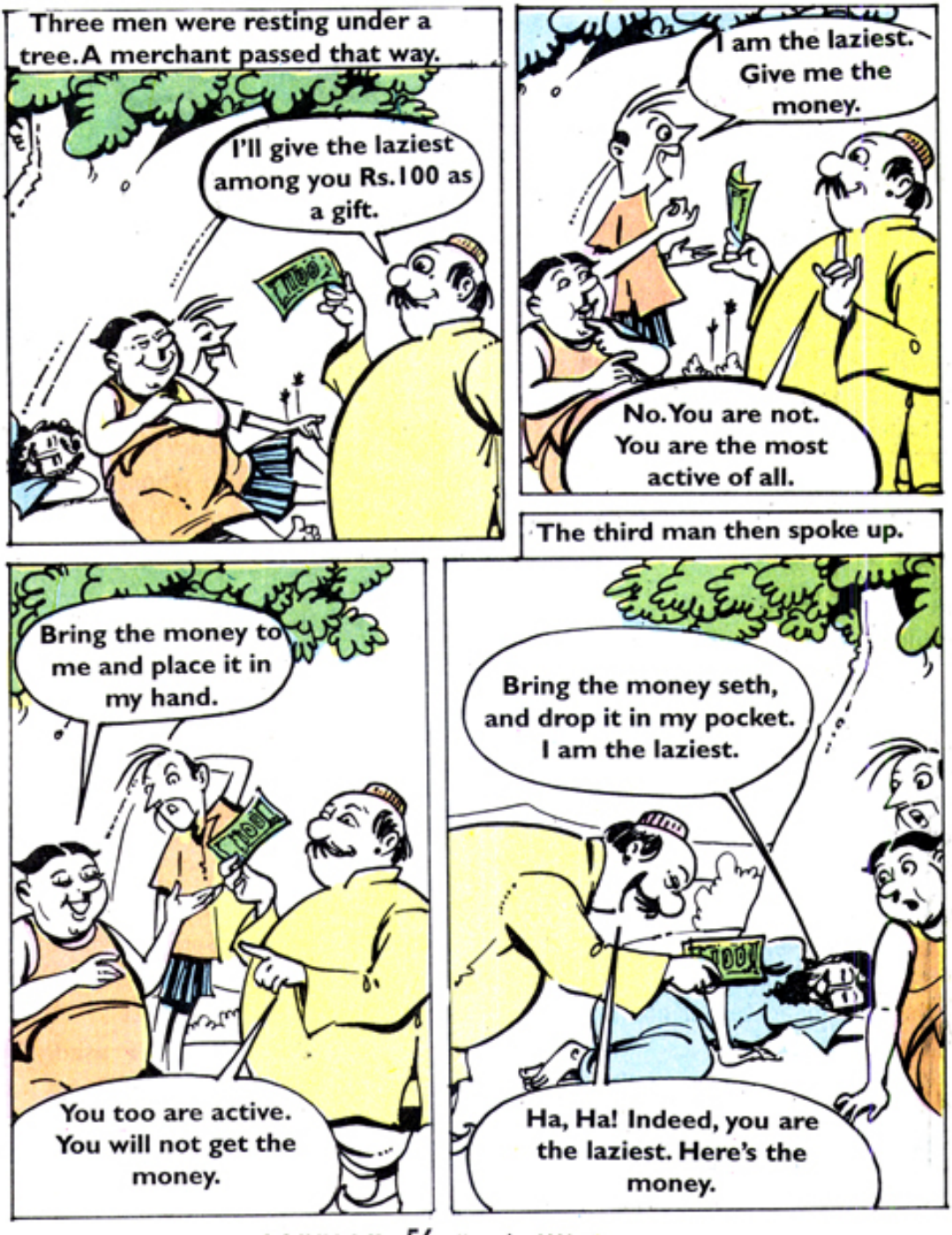
Sprinkle the cutting board with flour and empty the dough on to the board. Knead for a few minutes. Then make out shapes with the flour - like letters of the alphabet etc. Place the shapes on a greased baking tray. Sprinkle coarse sugar on the shapes. Bake in oven for 14 minutes at 220°C or 425°F.

Pallavi Prasad,
age 15, Nightingales HS, Hubli

BUDDING CHEF

THREE LAZY MEN

Story : **Sandeep Yadav, std VIII B, Vidhya Mandir, Goa.**
Illustation : **Vinmani**



A LIST OF FOOLS

Emperor Akbar liked horses very much. He had a big stable for horses in his palace. He would heartily welcome horse traders to his kingdom.

One day a trader came to Akbar with beautiful horses. Akbar liked the horses so much that he gave him many gifts and a grand feast. He also gave him an advance for some more horses to be brought to him the next time the trader visited him.

A few days before Akbar had asked Birbal to prepare a list of fools in his kingdom.

The next day Birbal came to him with a list of fools. The first name in it was Akbar. When he saw his name in the list, Akbar became angry. He said, "Birbal how dare you write my name, that too heading the list? Do you take me for a fool?"

"Your majesty, is it not foolish to give so much money to a stranger without asking anything about him?" asked Birbal.

Akbar realised that Birbal was correct. "But I have given him money to bring some more horses next time," he said.

"Your majesty, then I will rub out your name and put his name instead when he returns with horses" replied Birbal. "Besides I have written my name at the bottom for wasting a lot of time researching on fools."

P. Lavanya and P. Uthara priyadarshini, Std V A, Std VII A, K.V., Chennai.

Only A Good Friend Gives You The Best Tips...

Light fireworks in open spaces. As far from buildings as possible.

Keep a close watch on children playing with fireworks.

Don't light fireworks holding them in your hands.

Place fireworks on the ground, light them from the side. Move away quickly.

Hold sparklers away from the body.

Pour water over burns immediately.

My friends showed me how to best enjoy Diwali. Safely. Happily.

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KIDNAPPED!

Shamnath, the popular film star, was very upset. He went about with a long face, hardly talking to anyone. Even during the shooting of a film he shunned company, and went off to sit alone between shots.

His friends wondered about his blue mood. When they asked him about it, he just shrugged. It was a big mystery.

One day the president of Shamnath Fan Club came to see him. The president, Dasappa, tried to look as much like Shamnath as possible. His hair was combed up in the approved Shamnath fashion, and he wore a loose coat, which was a Shamnath trademark.

"We heard something is wrong, boss" said Dasappa. "Can we do anything to help?"

"Am I not popular? Why have I not been warned so far?"

"I have not told anyone about this" said Shamnath. "But I'll tell you in confidence. I am terribly depressed."

"But... why... why?" Dasappa was upset.

"You see, one superstar has been kidnapped by a brigand. And a Bollywood superstar has been threatened that he may be kidnapped."

"You mean Badabee?"

"Yes. And the actress Kanavukkanni also may be kidnapped, I hear..."

"Don't worry boss" said Dasappa. "We will never allow you to be kidnapped."

"It's not that" said Shamnath. "All these people are threatened because they are popular. Even an old star like Trajikumar has been threatened. So what about me? Am I not popular? Why have I not been warned so far?"

"So that's it, is it?" said Dasappa, smiling. "Don't worry. I'll do something about this."

In a couple of days Dasappa organised a rally of Shamnath fans. A lot of unemployed young men and women were paid to squat on the road and block traffic.

They held banners which said : "Kidnap Shamnath! He's the greatest!" and "Kidnappers! You cannot ignore Shamnath!"

Press reporters and TV camera crews rushed to the spot. The police were also there pleading with squatters. "It will be an indefinite road roko until

our hero is recognised as the most popular, and therefore an eminent kidnap victim" said Dasappa in a press statement.

The entire state was agog with excitement. "Will Shamnath be kidnapped?" was the question on everyone's lips.

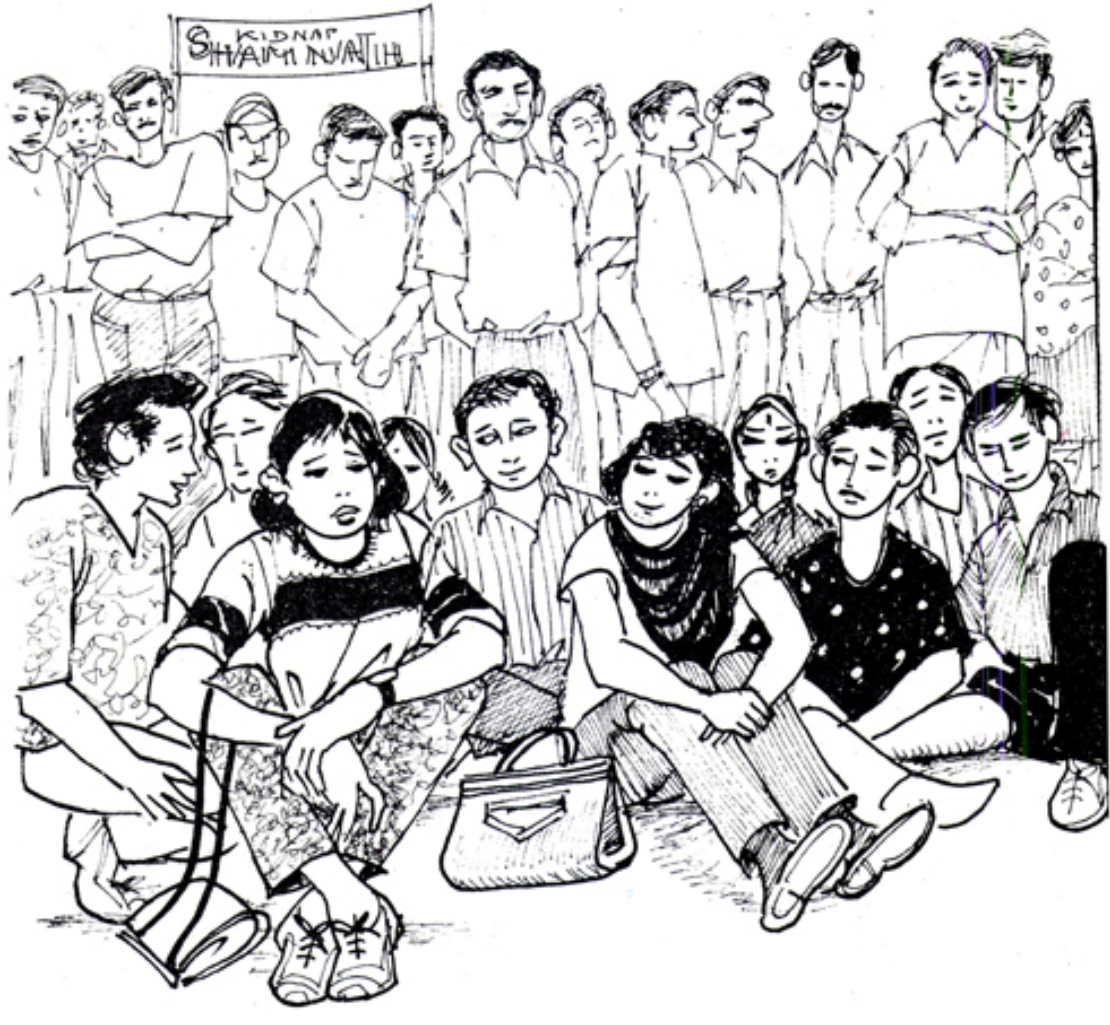
Cinema theatres took advantage of the situation, and advertised Shamnath's films thus : "See Shamnath while you can. Who knows what will happen tomorrow?"

And then one day Dasappa received a phone call. "Meet me in Thambi's Cafe tomorrow morning at ten" said the voice on the phone. "I will be wearing a striped shirt, a black cap and dark glasses." And then the phone went dead.

"Hello! hello!..." Dasappa yelled in vain. He hung up the receiver.

The next day Dasappa was in Thambi's Cafe well ahead of time. He sat at a table and ordered a cup of coffee. Exactly at 10 a.m. a small - made man in a black cap and dark glasses entered the restaurant and walked straight up to Dasappa.

"You seem to know me" said



Dasappa.

"I make it my business to know everybody" said the man. He pulled a chair close to Dasappa's and sat down.

"I'll have a cup of coffee" the man said to the waiter who was hovering over the table.

"May I know your name?" Dasappa asked.

"No names please" said the man. "I belong to an organisation called Four Cs. That's all you have to know."

"What is Four Cees?"

"I will tell you later" the man said. There was a brief silence as the waiter arrived with the coffee. After he had gone, the man turned to Dasappa. "You want Shamnath kidnapped? I can arrange it."

"How?"

"He will have to voluntarily come with us. We will keep him in hiding for as long as necessary."

"What will be the ransom demand?"

"We will think of that later. Do you want him kidnapped or not?"

"Yes, we do" said Dasappa. He was already beginning to see himself as the chief negotiator in this matter, giving interviews to the press and appearing on TV.

"It will cost you money" the man said.

"How much?"

"Twenty five lakhs."

"That's a lot of money."

"It is peanuts for Shamnath. Anyway, take it or leave it." The man got up.

"Please wait" said Dasappa. "I'll consult Shamnath and let you know tomorrow."

"All right. Same place, same time." And then the man was gone.

Shamnath was quite excited when Dasappa reported the matter to him.

"Just five days, and then they can send me back" he said enthusiastically. "Twenty five lakhs is okay. After all, I earn much more than that for each film I make."

So Dasappa contacted Black Cap the next day, and everything was fixed.

Two days later Dasappa drove

Shamnath to a chosen spot on Adyar beach just as it was getting dark and parked the car. Shamnath was carrying a suitcase full of clothes, several bottles of mineral water and a number of tablets. He also had a bundle containing twenty five lakh rupees. Another car pulled up beside them. Black cap accompanied by two men got out and greeted Shamnath pleasantly.

Shamnath and his luggage were transferred to the 'kidnapper's' car.

"At last our hero has been recognised," they said in interviews.

"Where are you taking him?" Dasappa asked.

"Your work is over. You can go now" said Black Cap. Dasappa was worried, but he drove off quietly.

The next day the papers were full of this news. TV stations kept telecasting the news every hour. Shamnath's fans were jubilant. "At last our hero has been recognised" they said in press interviews.

There was dancing in the streets, and some fans pelted stones at some buses just for the fun of it.

Two days passed without any news from the kidnappers. The police investigated the matter, and then declared that they were baffled.

Then the Film Producers' Association received a letter. On top of the letter was the name '4 Cs'. The letter explained the name.

"Our organisation is called Citizens' Council for Clean Cinema - that is, 4 Cs. We have been watching Mr. Shamnath's antics on the screen for over twenty years. His egotism, his vulgar dances and his pretence of being a young romantic hero even when he has passed the age of fifty, have disgusted us.

"We have made him pay a fine of twenty five lakh rupees for his assault on all that is clean and decent and wholesome. We are sending this amount to an old people's Home. Our organisation is made up of several eminent judges, professors, doctors, lawyers and numerous housewives.

"We are for healthy entertainment that could be inspirational. We were patient all these years, but now we have Shamnath, and are in a bargaining

position. We will return him unharmed if you give a written undertaking that you will not book him for any more films.

"If you don't do so, we may have to find other methods of keeping him out of films."

All the newspapers printed this letter in full, and TV stations read out the letter in their news bulletins.

The Film Producers' Association called for a meeting of its members to discuss the demand made by the 4-Cs. One by one the producers rose to speak, and since there were no press reporters, they spoke freely.

"For years and years Shamnath has been demanding more and more money from us, and has caused us a lot of expenditure by foreign trips and costly costumes" said one.

"And he insists on having forty dancers to accompany him in every dance number, and each of them has to be given four or five different costumes per dance" said another.

"Even though the films do well, most of the profit goes to him. This is a nice excuse to drop him once and for all" said another.

Meanwhile Shamnath's fans had gathered outside and were shouting slogans. "Drop Shamnath from films and save his life" they yelled. Again, they stoned a few buses.

The producers signed a declaration that they would never book Shamnath for their films thereafter. As soon as it was announced, the fans cheered from the streets. "Hurrah!" they screamed. "Our hero is saved!" To express their joy they broke the windshields of a few buses.

Shamnath returned quietly one evening, and retired to a cardamom estate that he owned.

Dasappa has not been seen since then.

J. VASANTHAN

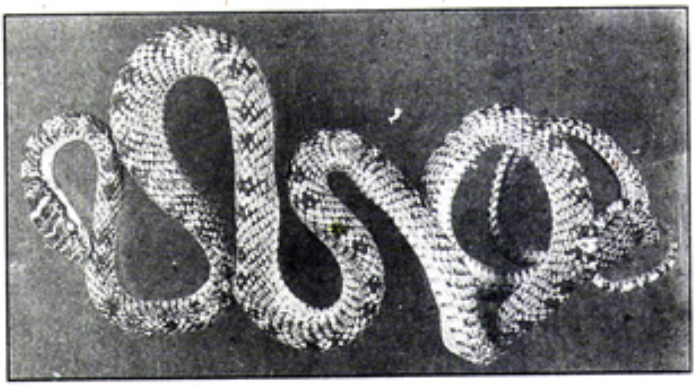
NEHRU'S ROSE

Why do you think Nehruji, our country's first Prime Minister always wore a red rose in his coat?

When Nehru was in prison his wife Kamala Nehru was seriously ill. When she was about to die, she put a red rose in his pocket and died. In her memory, Nehruji wore a red rose everyday in the button-hole of his coat.

We children also can give roses to our friends in his memory on his birthday.

R. Rangasai,
Std III,
K.V.I.I.T. Mumbai.



* The golden tree snake or the 'flying' snake.

"FLYING" FROGS AND REPTILES

No frog or reptile can fly like a bird or a bat. Certain tree-living frogs, lizards and snakes can leap over small distances. This is why they are said to fly. One species each of frog and snake and two species of lizards have been conferred the dubious distinction.

The Malabar tree-frog, found in the Western Ghats, has earned a reputation as the Flying Frog. It can leap from one branch to another branch of a tree. The completely webbed fingers and toes support the frog in the act of parachuting.

The eight-inch-long pretty lizards (Dracos) found only in the rainforests of Western Ghats and northeastern India are known as the 'flying dragons' because of their so-called powers of flight. In fact, they leap fom one tree to another. They are supported by the wing-like skinny expansions of their body.

When they glide, the skinny expansions are spread out and look like short, rounded wings though they cannot be flapped. Far from being a dragon, the slender tree lizard looks like a giant butterfly in the forest, matchless in its beauty or colour, form and movements.

They can leap small distances. Hence they are said to fly.

A curious-looking tree gecko (Ptychozoon), which is noticed only in the dense jungles of Nicobar islands, has lobe-like skinny expansions on the head, the trunk and the tail.

This gecko, which lives among large trees in the jungle,

takes long leaps in which act it is supported by the skinny expansions of the body and webbed toes which together act as a kind of 'parachute'.

To call the diminutive gecko, which is under 100 mm in head and body length, a 'flying gecko' seems a bit far - fetched. It is true that it is capable of gliding from higher braches to lower ones.

The Golden tree snake of the Western Ghats can jump. It is also known as the ornamental snake because of its jet black body with conspicuous yellow crossbars and a beautiful series of large ventebral spots.

These spots look like the petals of a rose. This snake is the most spectacular of living snakes because of its powers of jumping.

Despite the common name 'Flying snake', it does not actually fly but can only glide. The snake launches itself into space, spreads the ribs, flattens the body and sucks in the ventral plates until the belly is concave.

These reptiles can be found in Andaman and Nicobar islands.

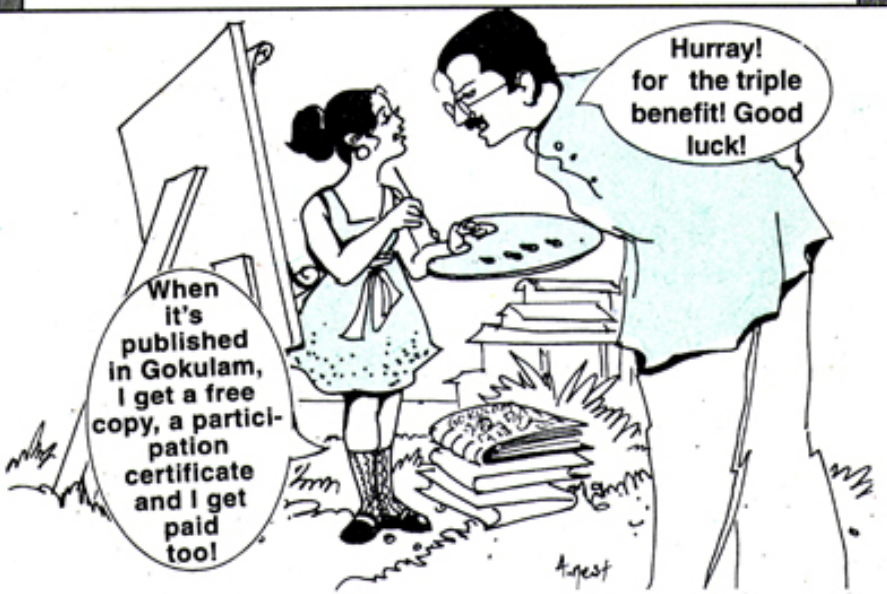
All this results in a parachuting effect which slows down the fall and controls the gliding of the snake. While negotiating a short distance between branches, it coils up, straightens the body suddenly and launches across the gap.

Another species, the paradise flying snake, can be seen in the jungles of Andaman islands.

T.S.N. Murthy, Chennai

* Draco, the 'flying' lizard

– **IN THE WILD**



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JOKES Corner

A man got on to a bus in a city square. He noticed that a big clock on a building showed 9.30. Some distance later, he saw another clock which said 9.15.

"Good grief," cried he. "I have boarded a bus which goes in the opposite direction!"

Thief (jabbing a gun): Stick them up.
Pedestrian (stutters): Stick up what?
Thief: Don't confuse me. This is my first job.

A company director kept a goldfish in a bowl on his desk. Someone asked him the reason for this.

"Because," he replied glumly, "I like to see something around here with its mouth open, not asking for a raise."

Manager: Really Asha, if you can't work a little faster, I shall have to get another girl.

Asha: Oh good! I can do with a bit of help.

All jokes by -
Ananth Viswanath,
Std. XI , Vidhya Mandir,
Chennai.

Meena: Daddy, my teacher said the world is round.

Father: That's right.

Meena: If the world is round then why do people say that they go to the far corners of the earth?

I am very thin. My mother feeds me fattening food. I am unable to eat much. I don't starve or go hungry. My sister teases me everytime my mother scolds me for not eating properly. Please help.

T. Hemamalini, Std. VIII A, St. John's Eng. School, Chennai

Dear Hemamalini,

Good food helps to build a healthy body. If you don't tire out easily after a full day of games and studies in school, and at home, then you are healthy.

Fat provides the body the necessary calories and essential vitamins. Some people do not gain weight despite gorging on sweets and fattening food. Others gain weight rather easily.

It doesn't matter, if you are thin as long as you are healthy. Your family doctor can assure your mother on this aspect.

As for your sister, tell her that you don't enjoy being teased. She will hold her tongue.

★

I am in a developing area and don't have friends to play with. I have chess, carrom etc. at home. Still I need someone to play with. My two sisters are busy. How can I cope with my free time?

R. Ganesh, Std. VIC, KV No.1, Trichy

Dear Ganesh,

Find out if your school or your colony / area has a sports club. You could join the club. Develope hobbies like reading books or collecting stamps or coins. You could also make pen friends.

★

I forget my lessons very quickly. I cannot concentrate on studies. I have promised my mathematics teacher that I will score 100 in maths. How can I improve my scores and keep up my promise?

Madhur N. Kabra, age 17, Dandeli

WHY AM

Dear Madhur,

Prepare a timetable and stick to it. Learn the formulae in mathematics before trying to solve problems. Cut down on other activities like listening to music and surfing the Net. Concentrate on your studies and forget other unproductive activities. You are bound to score well in exams.

★

My sister and I cannot see eye to eye on any topic. My parents say that it is indecent for grown - up girls to quarrel. My sister often criticises my appearance. As a result I lose concentration in my studies. Please help.

Teja V. Kumar, Std. XI, Clarence HS, Bangalore.

Dear Teja

Sibling rivalry is common. Perhaps you could tell you sister to stop commenting on your appearance. It is true that quarrelling on every subject speaks ill of your temperament. Learn to be tolerant and allow other people the right to hold their own views.

I THIN?

GRANDMA WORM

If you can't hold your temper move out of the room.

★

When the school declares study holidays before exams, I can't make myself concentrate on studies. I keep telling myself that there is plenty of time and I take it easy until the day before exams.

The day before exams I study between 6 p.m. and 12 midnight. I take a break and return to study for two more hours. On the day of the exams, I am very tense,

T.A Sai Sudha, age 16, NHS, Calcutta

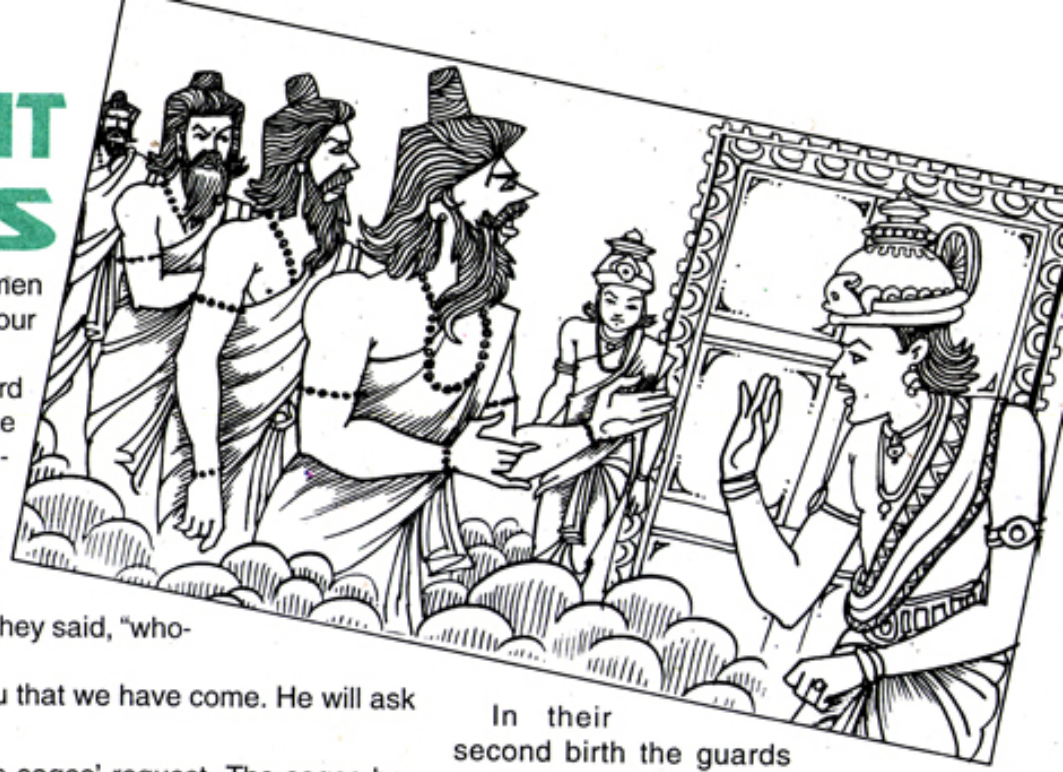
Dear Sai Sudha,

Obviously you know where you are going wrong. Start studying from the first day of your study holidays. Perhaps you could study one lesson from each subject to avoid boredom. Slowly, you will form a habit and by the end of your study hols you would have covered your syllabus.

Further, to avoid being tense, study formulae, equations and question and answers that are frequently asked. You will score well.

Love,
Grandma worm

THE ARROGANT GUARDS



In ancient India, elders, sages and holy men were always respected. Lord Brahma had four sons who were all great sages.

Once the four brothers decided to visit lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu was in his abode, the Vaikunta. Vaikunta was guarded by two brothers Jaya and Vijaya.

The sages told the guards, "We are rishis. We have come to pay our respects to lord Vishnu. Please allow us inside."

Jaya and Vijaya would not listen to them. They said, "whoever you may be, we cannot allow you in."

The sages said, "please inform lord Vishnu that we have come. He will ask you to let us in."

The arrogant guards paid no heed to the sages' request. The sages became angry. They said, "your are very arrogant. You have no humility. You don't deserve to be the guards of lord Vishnu. May you be born on earth as demons."

The guards realised their folly and begged for forgiveness. The sages relented saying that they would be born on earth thrice. Lord Vishnu would redeem them from the curse of mortality all the three times.

Accordingly, the brothers were born as the demons Hiranyakshan and Hiranyakashipu. Lord Vishnu appeared as Varaha and Narshima and killed the two demons.

In their second birth the guards were reborn as half - demons Ravana and Kumbhakarna. They were killed by Vishnu who appeared as Rama.

In there third appearance on earth, they were born as human kings- Sisupala and Dandavakra. They were killed by lord Vishnu who appeared as lord Krishna.

K.S. Govinda Rao,
Std V, St Anthony's EPS, Sirsi.

MYTHOLOGY

SHADES OF HUMOUR

Anything that makes people laugh is humourous. But humour and a sense of humour do not mean mere laughter. They denote a pleasant or a pleased disposition. One's attitude or disposition towards life people and things was thought to depend on one's 'humour' or one's body fluids.

In early english literature, upto the time of Shakespeare, 'humorous' referred to such fluids as blood, bile and phlegm. If one of these fluids was in excess, then it gave the person a certain disposition. Bile gave a 'bilious' or 'cross' disposition. Blood gave sanguinary (in Latin sanguis means blood) or a cheerful disposition.

Gradually, the theory of body fluids was given up. Yet the idea of humour and disposition meaning the same thing has been retained. Even today we speak of a person being in good-humour or bad humour.

Wit on the other hand means 'knowledge' or 'sophistication'. The Anglo-Saxon word 'witan' as well as the German word 'wissen' mean 'to know'. Gradually the word took a meaning of knowing more than anyone else and referred to people from universities. Today if someone calls you 'a wit' (without adding the prefix 'nit' to it) he is complimenting

you as a clever and an imaginative person.

Here's how Mark Twain distinguished between wit and humour. He said that the effect of a witty story depended on the matter while the effect of a humourous story depended on the manner it was being told.

Wit pertains to the intellect. Humour is a manner - either physical or emotional. Humour can be intended or even unintended. Wit is always an intended remark. Anyone can be humourous with or without effort. But it takes a razor-sharp brain as well as conscious effort to be witty.

In both instances there is an element of surprise. The listener is caught off-guard. Humour is defined as "the pleasant disappointment of expectations". The humourist often combines elements that do not go together. Humour is also defined as "amusing incongruity".

Winston Churchill was famous for his witty remarks. Some of the stories told about Churchill are so funny that the insults contained in his witty remarks have to be overlooked.

Nancy Astor, a society hostess and an M.P. was ill-disposed towards Churchill. One day she is supposed to have told him, "Winston, if I were married to you, I will put poison in your coffee!" Churchill retorted, "Nancy! if you were my wife, I'd drink it."

Once, playwright Bernard Shaw sent Churchill two tickets for the first night of one of his plays with a note. It said, "Bring a friend if you have one." Churchill returned the tickets saying he would not be able to attend, but would be grateful for tickets for the second night - "if there was one."

Visalakshi Ramani,
Coimbatore.

SOUNDING POLITE

Rahul: Can I come in sir?

Principal: Mind your manners young man.

Sita: I want a glass of water.

Teacher: Why do you always demand? Why can't you request?

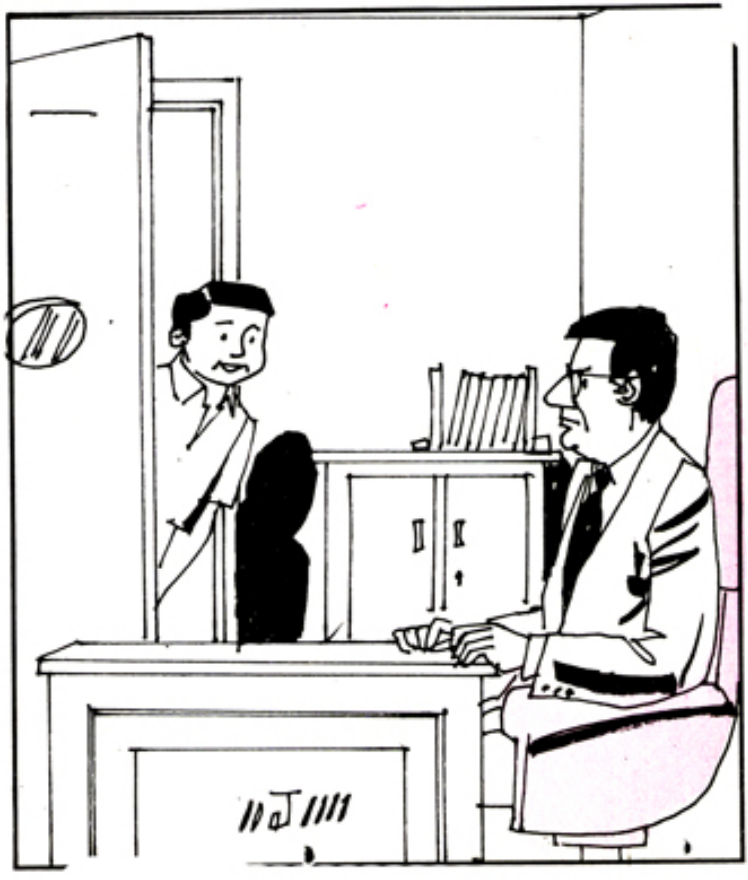
Has this ever happened to you? You come up with a grammatically correct sentence in English and the listener says, "Why can't you sound polite?", or "Why do you always sound so rude?". We are seldom told these things when we speak in our mother tongue. When we use English, we are constantly reminded of how rude we sound. Why does this happen?

Let's begin with the first example. Why does the Principal tell Rahul to mind his manners? Rahul has made a request - he wants to enter the Principal's office -and he has used a grammatically correct sentence. So why does the Principal comment on his manners? Think about it.

What would you have done if you had been in Rahul's place? How would you have asked the Principal? One possible way of making yourself sound polite is to replace the word "can" with "may". The Principal would have welcomed Rahul with open arms if he had asked him, "May I come in, sir?" Does the replacement of "can" with "may" make such a big difference? Yes, it does.

Sounding polite in mother tongue

How do we show our respect for



someone when we use our mother tongue - Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi, etc? How do we show that we are being polite? The kind of language you use with someone depends on his age. The language you use with your friends is not the variety of language you would use with your father's friends. In all Indian languages we have two different words for "you".

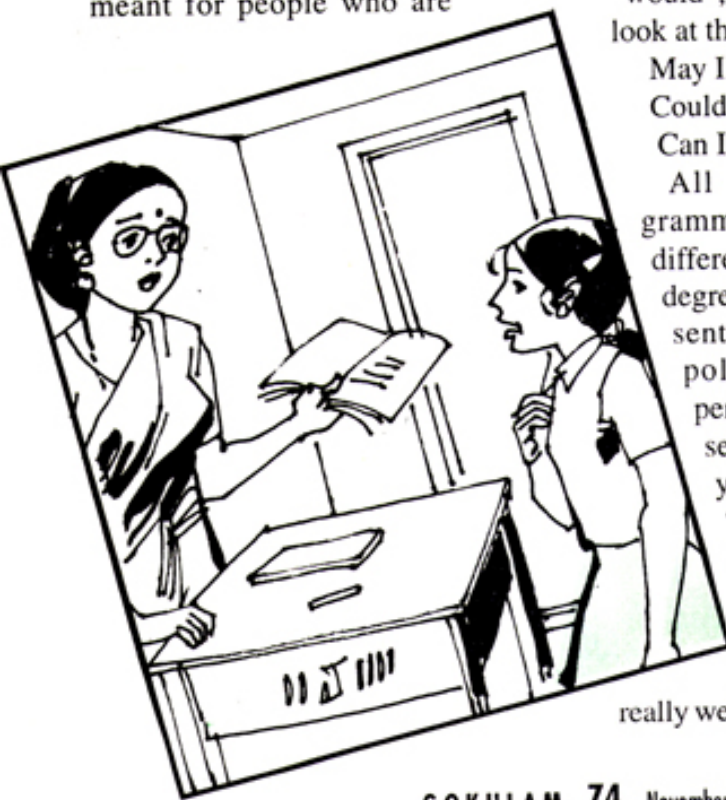
When you talk to someone who is older than you, you make use of one word; and when you talk to someone younger than you, you make use of another word. Which "you" you use, tells the listener whether you are being polite or not. When we talk to a stranger who is more or less the same age as us, we usually use the "you" meant for people who are older than us. We do this in order to show the person respect.

In English, however, we do not have two different words for "you". Whether we are talking to someone older than us, or younger than us, we make use of the same word - "you". So, how do we show respect to someone who is older than us? Native speakers of English make use of words like "may", "could", "would", etc to show respect. Take a look at the following sentences.

How do we show respect to someone who is older than us?

May I leave early tomorrow?
Could I leave early tomorrow?
Can I leave early tomorrow?

All three sentences are grammatically correct. The only difference between them is in the degree of formality. In the first two sentences, you are being very polite; you are asking for permission. These are the sort of sentences that you would ask your Principal or your teacher. "May" is considered to be much more polite, much more formal than "could". These words are used with people you don't know really well, or with people to whom you



want to show respect.

"Can", on the other hand, is considered much more informal. The sort of word you would use with people you know fairly well. "Can I leave early tomorrow?" is the sort of question that you would ask your friend or your mother. It shows that you know the person really well.

The second example, when Sita says, "I want a glass of water", she is making a demand. Whenever you say "I want this" or "I want that", you are not requesting for something, but demanding it. You are ordering the person to give it to you. This is like using the "you" meant for younger people with a person older than you. How do you think the person is going to feel?

Probably pretty angry. Similarly, when you demand something, your listener is going to resent it. You are not being polite. How do you make a sentence like that sound like a request? You use the word "would". You can say, "I would like to have a glass of water." In this case, you are not making a demand, you are making a request. Here are some more examples.

When you demand something your listener is going to resent it.

I would like to have a dosa.

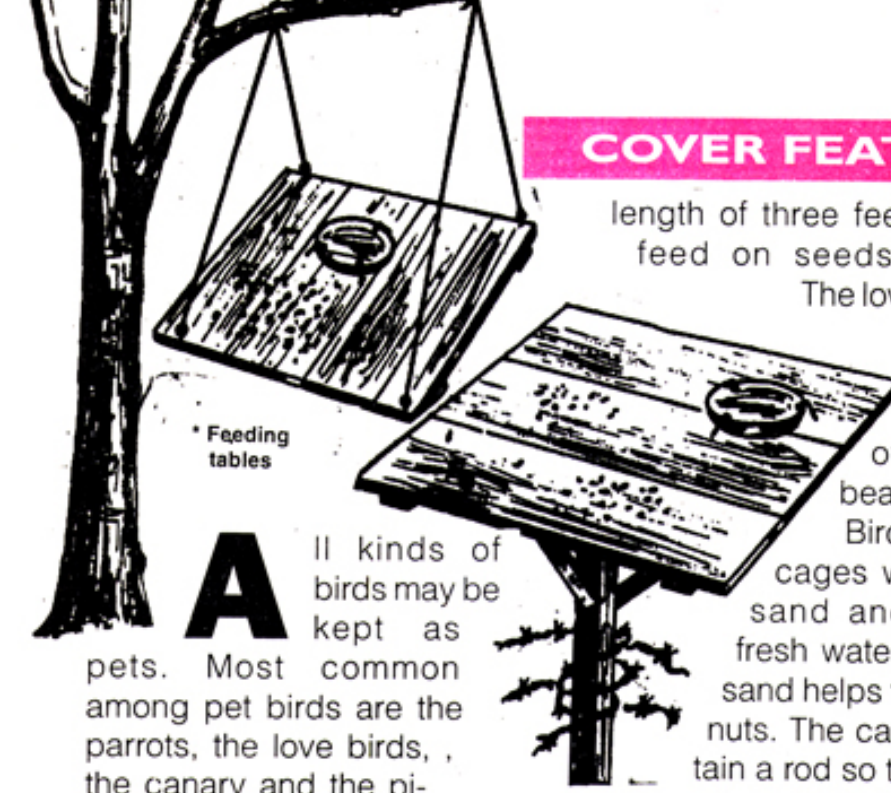
I would like to meet your friend.

Malathi would like to go home.

If you want to know more about how to sound polite in English, tune in again next month. Or should I say, if you would like to know more about...? You get the point, don't you? May I sign off now?

S. Upendran

REARING Birds



* Feeding tables

All kinds of birds may be kept as pets. Most common among pet birds are the parrots, the love birds, , the canary and the pigeons. In India, canaries are rare to find.

Birds are alert and make wonderful pets. A child can soon learn what the different calls of the bird means.

There are 600 different kinds of parrots in the world. A few species of parrots can talk. The grey parrot of north America can talk. The female can pronounce words better than the male.

The macaw of Brazil are birds with colourful plumes. They grow to a length of three feet. All parrots feed on seeds and fruits. The love birds which come in pairs sit close to each other, their beaks touching.

Birds need large cages with plenty of sand and a bowl of fresh water. The coarse sand helps them to break nuts. The cage must contain a rod so that birds car. exercise. Birds need warmth, fresh air, wholesome food and water in order to be healthy. Younger birds can be fed bread and milk. Older birds prefer nuts, cakes, seeds and fruits.

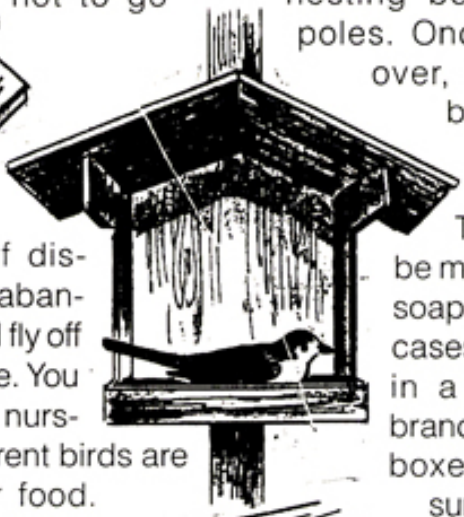
Clever parrots can pick up words without being taught. When parrots are taught to repeat words, their cage must be covered with a cloth.

Parrots may succumb to parrot fever. This viral infection can be passed

on to humans too. Hence parrots are not encouraged as pets as they once were.

The best way of learning about birds and watching them is by having them come to your garden. Birds will come if you place food and provide nesting boxes for them. They will build nurseries and rear their young in these boxes. Take care not to go too near them. If disturbed, they will abandon their nests and fly off to some other place. You can peep into the nurseries when the parent birds are away hunting for food. Don't pick up a baby from its nest. You may cause the baby injury.

* Nesting boxes

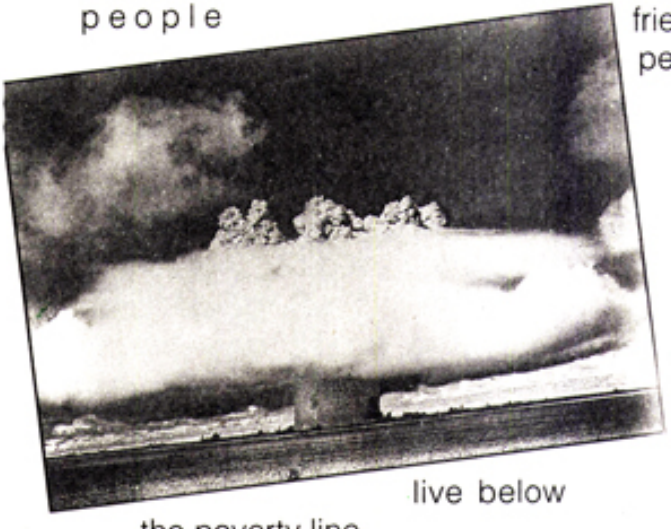


In your garden, scatter some grains like millet. Hide and watch. Sparrows will watch the food warily and may eat it too. Sometimes they may fly off without eating the food. Wait patiently. They will come back again. Birds can be fed coconuts, fruits, nuts, millets etc. You can erect nesting boxes on wooden poles. Once the season is over, remove the bird boxes, clean them thoroughly and place them back. These boxes can be made from plywood, soap-boxes or packing cases. Place the boxes in a shade close to branches of a tree. The boxes should receive sunshine in the mornings and evenings. This way you are taking care of a large number of birds, protecting them from predators and saving them from hunger and thirst. Instead of one bird, you will have a sanctuary.

VIEW

Man vs. arms

I learnt recently that our government spends several crores of rupees on strengthening our defence forces. In India a large number of people



live below the poverty line.

Cannot our government spend more to feed the poor instead of concentrating on nuclear weapons?

Tony George, Std VIII,
St.Thomas's Boys school,
Calcutta.

Friends for life

Even in an age where television and the internet rule every household, I think books are necessary. Reading broadens the mind. Books give us pleasure and fun. Books help us to learn the mysteries of the world. Reading helps to develope our memory, the power of concentration and creativity.

Watching TV makes us feel lonely. Books can become our friends. In fact, books can be our permanent friends.

Saswat Mohapatra,
Std VII, St. Xavier's HS,
Bhubaneshwar.

Part - time jobs

A recent trend among students in the West is earning as they study. Part - time jobs

help students to become self - sufficient. They are exposed to various situations at a young age. They learn to handle different kinds of situations which prepare them for adulthood.

Part - time jobs provide money which meets their personal needs. It

POINT

relieves the parents' burden of having to provide for all their children's personal needs.

The student can make his own provision for gifts, cards, dresses and parties. However, students may go over - board with so much money on their hands. They may take to drugs, smoking and other vices.

Despite this, the good outweighs the bad. I think if we act with responsibility part time jobs will pave the way for a better future.

Neena Narayanan,
Std X, St.Ursula's AIHSS,
Chennai.

A necessary evil

I agree with S. Srinivasan. Advertisements inform us about new products, discounts and free samples. Surely, we can't be going to shops everyday to find out if a product is being sold at a discount.

The television serials, the newspapers, magazines and radio programmes all depend on advertisements for revenue. Even Gokulam carries advertisements. We cannot do without them.

M. Neela Muhil Vannan,
Std VIIA, Loyola MHSS, Chennai.

Goodbye, sickness!

We can say goodbye to sickness if we follow certain golden rules. Plenty of sunlight, fresh air, green vegetables and pure drinking water are all a must for healthy life.

Walking and jogging improves blood circulation. Meditation and yoga relaxes the mind. Dates, honey and tender coconuts, if taken regularly are enough to meet the body's need for vitamins. Diseases will bid goodbye!

R. Jebachitra,
Std XI, GGHS, Vellore.

OF BROKEN RECORDS...

The millennium's first games did not bring glory to India. The United States finished first with 97 medals. Of these 39 were gold. Marion Jones became the first athlete to win five medals at a single Games.

A number of records were made - Cathy Freeman, became the first native Australian to win a gold. She was also the first native Australian to light the Olympic flame.

Srilanka and India won just a medal each.

The Russian federation stood second in the medal tally with 88 medals - 32 of them gold.

Cathy Freeman won the 400 m gold, setting a new record.

Maurice Greene of the US set a record by running 100m in 9.87 seconds. He became the fastest man.

The games saw a record number of athletes being suspended for the use of banned drugs. Most athletes believed they had taken banned steroids unknowingly. One 16-year-old athlete was stripped of her medal after testing positive for a banned drug. She had won for Romania a gold medal in gymnastics.

Illina Zvereva (39) of Belarus became the oldest woman to win a track and field (discus) event gold.

Olympics became a TV sport. The 2004 Olympics will be held in Athens, Greece.

* Andrea Raducan lost a medal

* Lone medallist K. Malleshwari

* Freeman, Aussie's pride

* Marion Jones

*Maurice Greene

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Identify these people by their profession.

Ans: Cook, Teacher, Doctor, Lawyer, Artist.

Join the dots

Guru : Why is the letter 'R' absolutely necessary for the word friend?

Vikash : Because without it, it would mean fiend (enemy).

H. Sriram,
VIII A,
SBOA. MHSS,
Coimbatore.

With which fictitious character do we associate this picture?

Ans: James Bond

SEARCH!

How many birds and butterflies are hidden here?

Ans: 4 birds, 1 butterfly.

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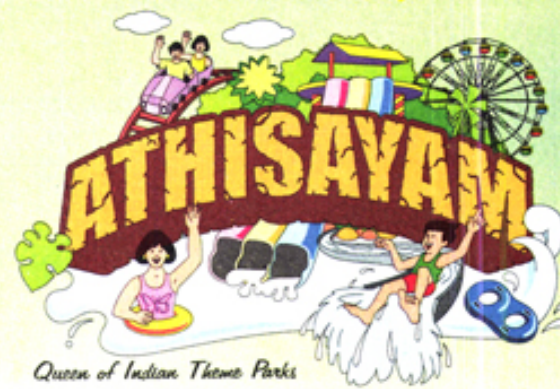

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